



Cearley, Judy <jcearley@usgs.gov>

Fwd: USGS FOIA Request 2018-00114 – Follow Up

May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov>
To: "Cearley, Judy" <jcearley@usgs.gov>

Wed, Feb 6, 2019 at 10:46 AM

FYI....

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **May, Brian** <bmay@usgs.gov>
Date: Wed, Feb 6, 2019 at 1:32 PM
Subject: USGS FOIA Request 2018-00114 – Follow Up
To: Relat, Hubbel <hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov>

Good Morning Hubbel,

Thanks for taking time to discuss this with me this morning. I've attached the original request and our request for clarification to this email so that you have them for your records. I agree with your opinion that the 92-page PDF does not contain records *directly* responsive to the amended request (all communications about the resignation of Murray Hitzman and the retirement of Larry Meinert), it does contain records responsive to the original request. We believe the records peripherally respond to the general nature of the amended request because they provide more background information that led Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, not specifically about the actual resignation/retirement.

I remember that Judy Cearley and I discussed this request and decided that we would proactively and discretionarily release the records to provide a complete picture of entire situation to the public. This request is the 11th request connected to the Murray Hitzman/Larry Meinert situation and we've provided each requester a copy of what we've released, regardless of who requested the information, feel free to check our [Google Sheet](#) tracking each request. In the Hitzman/Meinert scenario, we've met the Rule of 3 codified in the FOIA Improvement Act and have proactively been sharing all of the released records with all of the requesters.

That said, if the Department's determination is that these 92-page do not respond to this specific request, I think that the records could respond to one of the other FOIA requests. When we initially received the requests, I spoke with senior USGS leaders about the requests and the records and suggested that we make discretionary releases of the contents (meaning that we were not going to invoke Exemption 5, deliberative process privilege). Additionally, I suggested that we proactively release as many records as possible to provide the public with the appropriate background and context of the situation. We want the records to tell the story about what transpired and everyone agreed with that approach. I believe that releasing the 92-page PDF falls under [5 U.S.C. 552](#), Section (a)(2)(D)(ii)(I), "that because of the nature of their

subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records". I understand that the 92-page PDF hasn't been released yet, technically not falling under the cited provision in the statute; however, I do believe that the records are likely to become the subject of a future request for substantially the same records. Finally, we are actively working with our Web Re-Engineering Team (WRET) to overhaul our website, including our FOIA Library, and add all of the requests and the records to it so that the public at large has access to the records. Therefore, even if the 92-page PDF does not specifically respond to 2018-00114, it captures more information than we've previously released to the other requesters.

Proactive releases are encouraged by the FOIA, the 2016 FOIA Improvement Act, and the amendments to the Federal Records Act; and, we may proactively release information/records outside of a FOIA request. If you think that it's cleaner to respond to the request with a No Records Response and then proactively release the redacted records in our FOIA Library, without citing to a specific FOIA exemption, we can do that.

USGS tries to be as transparent as possible and in this instance USGS believes that transparency, proactively and discretionarily releasing the records is in the public's best interest and in line with the spirit of the act. My desired end result is to close the request as soon as practicable either by releasing the 92-page PDF in part or by providing a No Records Response and then proactively releasing the records on our FOIA Library.

Thanks again for your time today.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
[\(443\) 750-2620 \(work cell\)](tel:443-750-2620)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

On Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 10:41 AM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:

No problem Hubbel, just sent the invitation.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
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(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

On Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 10:29 AM Relat, Hubbel <hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thanks Brian. Day has become super packed with meetings. I might not have time till late this afternoon or tomorrow morning. Can we put a time on calendar for tomorrow at 830 or 9am?

On Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 8:00 AM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Hubbel,

When would you like to meet today? I'm currently preparing my monthly and quarterly FOIA reports, but I'm available to talk. Feel free to call my work cell phone or I can call you at your convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
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bmay@usgs.gov

On Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 3:35 PM Relat, Hubbel <hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Spoke briefly with Judy about this today. We should still circle up tomorrow though. Thanks Brian.

On Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:07 PM Relat, Hubbel <hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Totally fine.

On Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 12:06 PM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Hubbel, I thought I responded to your original email on Friday evening. I'm in Reston, VA today. Been in meetings all day already and have a few more to go. I won't be able to call you today; however, I can call you tomorrow.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
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(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

On Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 11:34 AM Relat, Hubbel <hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I can discuss this when you're ready as well. Just give me a ring.

On Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 4:47 PM Relat, Hubbel <hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Brian,

Let's plan on discussing next week. Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **May, Brian** <bmay@usgs.gov>

Date: Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 8:53 AM

Subject: USGS FOIA Request 2018-00114 – Request DOI Awareness Review with Senior Officials (Final Response)

To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, Katharine MacGregor <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Newell <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>, Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, James Schindler <james.schindler@boem.gov>, <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Willens <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, <scott_angelle@ios.doi.gov>, <blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov>, Stephen Wackowski <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>, <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov>, <steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov>, William Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>, Todd Wynn <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov>, Alex Hinson <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Quinn, Timothy <tsquinn@usgs.gov>, Joanne C Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, Joseph Seger <jseger@usgs.gov>, Dale Anglin <danglin@usgs.gov>, Heindl, Jennifer <jennifer.heindl@sol.doi.gov>, Cearley, Judy <jcearley@usgs.gov>

Good Morning Mr. Rees, and others:

Hope everyone is doing well this morning. I'm writing to coordinate a DOI Senior Official FOIA Awareness (72-hour) Review of the attached record responsive to USGS FOIA request 2018-00114, submitted by the Western Values Project (request attached). We are coordinating this review because you have either been named in the records, received email from or sent emails to USGS individuals. The records associated with this Request for Awareness Review constitute our Final Response associated with Mr. Murry Hitzman's resignation and Mr. Larry Meinert's retirement. Please see below for the corresponding PDF pages numbers in the records.

We redacted personally identifiable information (PII) under FOIA Exemption 6 and plan to release the remaining portions of the emails unredacted. We have already coordinated a legal review with Ms. Jennifer Heindl (Cc'd) in the Office of the Solicitor, Division of General Law.

The portions of the records that pertains to you are listed with your name below, (highlighted in purple within the records):

2018-00114 – Combined Collection (92 pages)

Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt: pages 7, 18, 25

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Andrea Travnicek: pages 1-2; 5-6; 8; 11-12 (duplicates in 2018-00092, previously reviewed and released); 13-14 (duplicates in 2018-00092, previously reviewed and released); 16; 18; 24-25; 28; 38-39; 43-46; 48; 80 (duplicates in 2018-00092, previously reviewed and released); 82; 84

Press Secretary Heather Swift: pages 16, 24, 30, 43, 44-46, 48, 84

Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason: pages 18, 28

Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Katharine MacGregor: pages 18, 20-21

Chief of Staff for W&S Kerry Rae: pages 20-21, 25

Deputy Director of Communications Russell Newell: pages 16, 43-46, 48

Principal Deputy Solicitor of SOL Daniel Jorjani: pages 20-21

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary-Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond:
pages 20-21

Advisor of BOEM James Schindler: pages 20-21

Advisor or OSMRE Landon Davis: pages 20-21

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens: pages 20-21, 25

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle: pages 20-21

Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs Advisor Blake Deeley: pages 20-21

Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs Stephen Wackowski: pages 20-21

Advisor of SOL Joshua Campbell: pages 20-21

Intergovernmental Affairs Advisor Steven Smith: pages 20-21

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Land and Mineral Management William Dove:
pages 20-21

Senior Advisor and Counselor to the Secretary Downey Magallanes: pages 20-21, 28

Deputy Director of Scheduling and Advance Leila Getto: page 28

Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Director Todd Wynn: page 28

Deputy Press Secretary Alex Hinson: pages 38-39, 41

According to the DOI Awareness Process, please provide your response, or a reasonable request for additional time, by Noon Eastern Time on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, or your silence will be taken as an affirmation you have concluded your review (page 2 of the DOI [guidance](#)).

Feel free to call Ms. Judy Cearley, (650) 329-4035, or I, if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this request with us. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
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(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

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Hubbel Relat
Counselor to the Secretary
202-208-3554
hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov

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2 attachments

2018-00114 - Initial FOIA Request-Letter.pdf
307K



2018-00114 - FOIA Request Clarification.pdf
65K



704C East 13th Street, Suite 568
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-438-1918

FOIA Officer
United States Geological Survey
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
E-mail: foia@usgs.gov

March 16, 2018

FOIA REQUEST

Dear Records Request Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

I also request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent DeVito

- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

"All correspondence" should include, but not be limited to, copies of digital and hardcopy information sent by, sent to, carbon copying ("CC"), or blind carbon copying ("BCC") any of these individuals during this time period.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).¹

Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."² The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Western Values Project does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Western Values Project's financial interest. Western Values Project's mission is to give a voice to Western values in the national conversation about resource development and public lands conservation, a space too often dominated by industry lobbyists and their government allies. Western Values Project will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Western Values Project will also make materials it gathers available on our public website <http://www.westernvaluesproject.org/>.

Accordingly, Western Values Project qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org.

¹ See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

If you have questions or need additional information from me, please feel free to call me at (406) 438-1918.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. If any documents are withheld based on the Agency's interpretation of any exemption, we request that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this *Vaughn* index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity as to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Saeger
Executive Director
Western Values Project

From: Chris Saeger
To: foia@usgs.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification
Date: Tuesday, 17 April, 2018 15:03:45
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Mr. Pogány,

I do seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?

Thanks for your assistance!

Chris

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:25 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <foia@usgs.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Saeger:

On March 16, 2018, the USGS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office received your FOIA request, dated March 16, 2018, and assigned it control number **USGS-2018-00114**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request. You request the following information:

1. Request for access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent De Vito
- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

The FOIA requires that requests describe the records sought with sufficient detail to allow an agency employee familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Your request does not adequately describe the records sought, therefore, we are unable to process it at this time. If you wish to pursue your request, please let us know if there is a specific topic that you are seeking information about (e.g. the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement)? Can we limit our search to only records sent directly from or directly to the listed individuals and exclude any emails where someone may have been Courtesy Copied? Can we exclude attachments? If not, the attachments could balloon the volume of potentially responsive records and move this request into the Exceptional/Voluminous processing track and could take years to process.

According to our regulations, if we do not receive your written response clarifying what records you are looking for **within 20 workdays** from the date of this letter, **April 18, 2018**, we will presume that you are no longer interested in pursuing your request, we will not be able to comply with your request, and we will close our file on it. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.5\(d\)](#).

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact me by email at foia@usgs.gov or by phone at (303) 236-2737.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Geological Survey.

V/μ

Andreas

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: gpogany@usgs.gov

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

This message (including any attachments) is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete all copies of the message.

From: [May, Brian](#)
To: [Cearley, Judy](#); [Freedom of Information Act, GS-GIO](#)
Subject: Fwd: USGS FOIA Request 2018-00114 – Request DOI Awareness Review with Senior Officials (Final Response)
Date: Friday, February 1, 2019 1:19:39 PM

Good Afternoon Judy,

FYI....

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
[\(443\) 750-2620 \(work cell\)](#)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dove, William** <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Re: USGS FOIA Request 2018-00114 – Request DOI Awareness Review with Senior Officials (Final Response)
To: May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov>

I have no issues here.

Thank you

Billy Dove | *Special Assistant*
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: 202-208-4606
Cell: 202-897-7232

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

On Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 8:53 AM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:
| Good Morning Mr. Rees, and others:

Hope everyone is doing well this morning. I'm writing to coordinate a DOI Senior Official FOIA Awareness (72-hour) Review of the attached record responsive to USGS FOIA request 2018-00114, submitted by the Western Values Project (request attached). We are coordinating this review because you have either been named in the records, received email from or sent emails to USGS individuals. The records associated with this Request for Awareness Review constitute our Final Response associated with Mr. Murry Hitzman's resignation and Mr. Larry Meinert's retirement. Please see below for the corresponding PDF pages numbers in the records.

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Chief of Staff for W&S Kerry Rae: pages 20-21, 25

Deputy Director of Communications Russell Newell: pages 16, 43-46, 48

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Advisor or OSMRE Landon Davis: pages 20-21

Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Willens: pages 20-21, 25

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle:
pages 20-21

Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs Advisor Blake Deeley: pages
20-21

Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs Stephen Wackowski: pages 20-21

Advisor of SOL Joshua Campbell: pages 20-21

Intergovernmental Affairs Advisor Steven Smith: pages 20-21

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Land and Mineral Management
William Dove: pages 20-21

Senior Advisor and Counselor to the Secretary Downey Magallanes: pages 20-
21, 28

Deputy Director of Scheduling and Advance Leila Getto: page 28

Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Director Todd Wynn: page
28

Deputy Press Secretary Alex Hinson: pages 38-39, 41

According to the DOI Awareness Process, please provide your response, or a
reasonable request for additional time, by Noon Eastern Time on Wednesday,
February 6, 2019, or your silence will be taken as an affirmation you have concluded
your review (page 2 of the DOI [guidance](#)).

Feel free to call Ms. Judy Cearley, (650) 329-4035, or I, if you have any questions or
if you would like to discuss this request with us. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)

(443) 750-2620 (work cell)

(443) 498-5510 (fax)

bmay@usgs.gov

From: [Relat, Hubbel](#)
To: [May, Brian](#)
Subject: Call
Date: Friday, February 15, 2019 7:14:54 AM

Brian,

Hope you've had a good week. I have a conflict with today's call but fortunately Cindy Cafaro will be reaching out to work through the remaining questions to resolve the request. Thanks.

Hubbel

--

Hubbel Relat
Counselor to the Secretary
202-208-3554
hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov

From: [Cafaro, Cindy](#)
To: [May, Brian](#)
Subject: Can you please call
Date: Friday, February 15, 2019 7:31:00 AM

When you have a moment?
Thanks.

Cindy Cafaro | Departmental Freedom of Information Act Officer | US Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-5342 | Main: 202-208-3181

From: [Cafaro, Cindy](#)
To: [May, Brian](#)
Subject: Re: Cant" Talk at the Moment
Date: Friday, February 15, 2019 7:36:20 AM

Sure, I can do half an hour at 9. Thanks.

Cindy Cafaro | Departmental Freedom of Information Act Officer | US Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-5342 | Main: 202-208-3181

On Fri, Feb 15, 2019 at 7:33 AM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Cindy,

I can't take your call at the moment, working on a few things. Hubbel told me that you would contact me, he and I had a 9 AM appt scheduled. Does that time work for you? If not, what time works for you? I also had a few meetings with Rachel that she had to decline, I can discuss those matters with you too. I'd like to have dedicated time so that we can work through the various matters.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
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(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

From: [Cafaro, Cindy](#)
To: [May, Brian](#)
Subject: Re: USGS FOIA 2018-00114: Brian's Scope Analysis, Explanation of Responsiveness of Records
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:09:04 PM

Sold.

Cindy Cafaro | Departmental Freedom of Information Act Officer | US Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-5342 | Main: 202-208-3181

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 1:08 PM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:
yes.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
[\(443\) 750-2620 \(work cell\)](tel:(443)750-2620)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 1:06 PM Cafaro, Cindy <cindy_cafaro@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Would noon work?
Thanks.

Cindy Cafaro | Departmental Freedom of Information Act Officer | US Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-5342 | Main: 202-208-3181

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:58 PM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:
Thank you Cindy. Any time after 10 AM works for me.

brian
Brian A. May

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:55 PM Cafaro, Cindy <cindy_cafaro@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi, Brian. Thanks the ping. Tomorrow would be a perfect time to discuss--what times are best for you?
I'm also looking forward to hearing about yesterday's EPA meeting.

Cindy Cafaro | Departmental Freedom of Information Act Officer | US Department of the Interior

Direct: 202-208-5342 | Main: 202-208-3181

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:40 PM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:
Good Afternoon Cindy,

Writing to follow-up to the email that I sent on 2/20/2019, providing my analysis of the responsiveness of the records, the Rule of 3, and providing additional background information. Have you had a chance to review the information that I provided? If so, would you like to meet this week to discuss the request? If you have not had the opportunity to review the information, when do you anticipate reviewing the information? I'd like to close the request this week, if possible; it's been pending DOI Awareness Review since 2/1/2019.

I'm taking leave this afternoon, beginning at 2 PM Eastern and I will not have my work cell phone with me. If you would like to speak with me about this request, you can reach me tomorrow morning on my work cell. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

On Wed, Feb 20, 2019 at 2:10 PM May, Brian <bmay@usgs.gov> wrote:
Good Afternoon Cindy,

Hopefully the attached provides the background and analysis that you requested, I've also attached the records with electronic sticky notes explaining the responsiveness on each email. I read through all of the emails between my staff and Mr. Chris Saeger, Western Values Project, and identified the Clarifications and Amendments that he provided to us. I think that the records meet the clarification that he provided to us on April 17, 2018 (see highlighted text in the attached). Therefore, after reviewing the emails between Mr. Saeger and my staff, I think that the attached records do respond to 2018-00114. Additionally, I think that we have met the Rule of 3 for some of the records because the records are also responsive to USGS and possibly OS requests. Finally, the most of the records respond to USGS-2018-00070, Mr. Evan Halpert's (LA Times) request. If the determination is made that the records do not respond to 2018-00114, then I think that we can release them to Mr. Halper and provide copies to the other requester's who are listed in the attachment. I understand that our omission of the clarifications and amendment led may have caused confusion about the responsiveness at the Department-level, I accept responsibility for not providing the attached emails. We'll ensure that we provide an accurate background of a request's scope in future Awareness Review packages. Additionally, I will ensure that we clean up our clarifications/amendments in the future to capture the nature of the clarification/amendment into one document (preferably one email).

I think that the entire circumstances around the resignation of Murray Hitzman, the retirement of Larry Meinert, and the nature of the critical minerals assessments meet the exception listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2)(D)(ii)(I), listed below:

(ii)(I) that because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records;

The attached document lists the 10 requests that we've already received and processed into the matter, this request, and the two OS FOIA requests that they have. This matter was a contentious issue that led to published articles news outlets, here is a sampling that I found just by searching for "Murray Hitzman resignation" in Google:

Science: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/02/departures-usgs-scientists-highlight-trump-era-tensions-surrounding-data>

The Hill: <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/374917-interior-dept-scientist-resigns-over-fears-of-lacking-scientific>

MotherJones: <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/02/usgs-interior-zinke-alaska/>

Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/02/21/two-scientists-have-left-the-interior-department-after-zinke-demanded-confidential-energy-data/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4421e8f3a5fb

Murray's resignation letter available online: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4380759-Hitzman-Letter-redacted2.html>

Earth & Space News: <https://eos.org/articles/senior-usgs-official-quits-over-request-for-advance-alaska-data>

Feel free to call me on my work cell if you would like to discuss this request or my analysis with me further. I don't know where I'll work tomorrow, either home or the office, it will depend on how much freezing rain we receive this afternoon or this evening. Hopefully we can resolve this request by end of this week or the middle of next week.

Thank you for your time.

Good Afternoon Dale and Judy,

FYI.....

Sincerely,

brian
Brian A. May
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
(443) 498-5521 (office)
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)
(443) 498-5510 (fax)
bmay@usgs.gov

**USGS FOIA REQUESTS SURROUNDING THE RESIGNATION OF
MURRAY HITZMAN AND THE RETIREMENT OF LARRY MEINERT**

FOIA Request Number	Request Status	Request Date	Name	Requester Organization	Requester Fee Category	Subject
2018-00062	Completed 9/25/18	1/10/2018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	1. Murray Hitzman's letter of resignation submitted on December 17, 2017. 2. Any/all correspondence and/or communication to and from Murray Hitzman (mhitzman@usgs.gov) containing the phrase "Fundamental Science Practices" or "FSP." Date range for the request is September 1, 2017 to December 17, 2017.
2018-00063	Completed 8/31/18	1/10/2018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	Any communication to/from the USGS Office of Energy and Minerals regarding maps or boundaries related to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Time period for the request is August 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.
2018-00064	Completed 9/12/18	1/11/2018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	1. Any and all correspondence or communication to or from USGS personnel in the bureau's energy and minerals division referencing the words "Fundamental Science Practices" or FSP concerning the National Petroleum Reserve energy assessment released on December 22, 2017, during the time period beginning October 30, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.

FOIA Request Number	Request Status	Request Date	Name	Requester Organization	Requester Fee Category	Subject
2018-00065	Completed 9/25/18	1/12/2018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	<p>The request for correspondence including the word “uranium” is in relation to a USGS report released in November. The link to that report is here:</p> <p>https://energy.usgs.gov/GeneralInfo/EnergyNewsroomAll/TabId/770/ArtMID/3941/ArticleID/1327/USGS-Assesses-Uranium-Potential-in-Southern-High-Plains.aspx</p> <p>Request should include correspondence or communication from the energy and minerals office regarding the USGS assessment on Uranium Potential in Southern High Plains. Specifically, for any correspondence discussing the USGS assessment on Uranium Potential in Southern High Plains in relation to the bureau’s Fundamental Science Practices or FSP. Timeframe between October 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.</p>
2018-00070	Completed 12/6/18	1/17/2018	Evan Halper	Los Angeles Times	News Media	<p>1. Any emails and / or correspondence sent to or from the following individuals, between November 1, 2017 and January 18, 2018, regarding USGS information releases involving mineral deposits and energy surveys. Specifically, Mr. Halper requests any correspondence (including emails) that discuss/describe a recent change to a longstanding policy where only four individuals would review or have access to the mineral deposit and energy surveys. Additionally, Mr. Halper requests any emails and / or correspondence, sent to or from the following individuals, that discuss or describe the ethics of the policy change, particularly regarding the ability of people to view or access potentially proprietary information. Mr. Halper does not request any email attachments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dr. Murray Hitzman, former Associate Director of Energy and Minerals o Mr. William Werkheiser, Director (Acting) o Dr. David Applegate, Deputy Director (Acting) o Ms. Judy Nowakowski, Chief of Staff o Mr. Craig Robinson, Associate Director, Office of Science Quality and Integrity (OSQI) o Mr. Rama Kota, Deputy Director, OSQI o Ms. Betsy Hildebrandt, Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing (OCAP) o Ms. Leslie Jones, Deputy Associate Director, OCAP o Ms. Anne-Berry (AB) Wade, USGS Press Officer, OCAP <p>2. A copy of Dr. Hitzman's Resignation Letter (same as USGS FOIA 2018-00062)</p>

						3. Any emails sent from Ms. Heather Swift, Department of the Interior, Press Secretary, to Ms. Hildebrandt, Ms. Jones, or Ms. Berry, between November 1, 2017 and January 18, 2018. Mr. Halper does not request any email attachments.
2018-00071	Completed 9/26/18	1/18/ 2018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	Any/all correspondence and/or communication to and from Murray Hitzman (mhitzman@usgs.gov) concerning the National Petroleum Reserve energy assessment released on December 22, 2017. Date range for the request is September 1, 2017 to December 22, 2017.
2018-00087	Completed 12/3/18	2/6/2 018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	Any/all correspondence or communication to or from David Applegate and William Werkheiser and the Office of the Secretary of the interior, specifically Heather Swift, regarding Adam Federman's January 10 and 11, 2018 email requests to interview USGS Associate Director David Applegate and Acting Director William Werkheiser about the USGS's Fundamental Science Practices. Date range for the request is January 10 to January 12.
2018-00092	Completed 12/6/18	2/13/ 2018	Adam Federman	Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute	News Media	Any and all correspondence or communication to or from Bill Werkheiser, David Applegate and Andrea Travnicek, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, from December 15, 2017 to December 18, 2017. This should include any and all emails exchanged on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17.
2018-00104	Completed 12/18/18	2/28/ 2018	Lauren Dillon	Democratic National Committee	Other	Emails, including attachments, sent or received by Mr. William Werkheiser, Acting Director, Mr. David Applegate, Acting Deputy Director, and Ms. Judy Nowakowski, Chief of Staff, which reference the resignation of Murray W. Hitzman, USGS Associate Director for Energy and Minerals and the retirement of Lawrence D. Meinert, Acting Deputy Associate Director for Energy and Minerals. The timeframe of the request is December 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018.

2018-00114

Original Subject:

1. request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate

- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- MmTay Ritzman
- Lany Meinert

2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent De Vito

Clarification 1 (April 17, 2018): seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?

Amended Request (April 26, 2018):

- 1) The topic of this FOIA, for both portions of the request, is defined as: all communications about the resignation of Murray Hitzman and the retirement of Larry Meinert.
- 2) USGS can exclude all CCed and BCCed emails.
- 3) USGS can exclude all email attachments.
- 4) For the second portion of the request - all communications between USGS officials and the list of Department of Interior officials - I'd like USGS to limit their search to emails sent from December 7th to December 27th, 2017.

Clarification 2 (October 11, 2018), after we provided records released to Mr. Federman (requests 2018-00062 and 2018-00065):

Do not believe this satisfies request, especially the second portion of the request: “request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017 ...”

That being said, to try to make this search easier, willing to significantly narrow the first portion of the request by inserting a key word search (in bold) and removing Werkheiser from the list of targeted accounts (however, please keep him in the second portion of the request, for all correspondence between USGS and DOI officials). Hopefully, this will help reduce search time.

Request access to and copies of all correspondence that includes the word “Werkheiser,” including by not limited to letters, text, emails, and faxes, to or from the following USGS officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkheiser
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowakowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrand
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

Open OS FOIA Requests that Overlap with Records:

OS-2018-00224 (still open)

Subject: Any and all records related to the development and implementation of the Department of the Interior's final report titled, "Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy," produced in response to Executive Order 13783 and released by the Department of the Interior on October 25, 2017 (hereinafter "Energy Burdens" report).

OS-2018-01374 (still open)

Subject: Copies of all communications or documents to, from, or in the custody of Ryan Zinke, Scott Hommel, David Bernhardt, James Cason, or Heather Swift that mention 'Hitzman' or 'Meinert' or 'Alaska' from November 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018.

Brian Analysis of Each Email, in addition to being responsive to the second portion of 2018-00114:

Pages 1-2: Responsive to USGS-2018-00063 and 2018-00070 (Rule of 3 met, reasonable that USGS will receive additional requests for the same records in the future)

Pages 4-5: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 6-7: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 8-10: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Page 11: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 12-13: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 14-15: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 16-17: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 18-19: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 20-23: Appears responsive to OS-2018-00224

Page 24: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 25-26: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 28-29: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 30-37: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 38-42: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 43-79: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 80-83: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070

Pages 84-85: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and OS-2018-01374 (Rule of 3 met for the Dept, that's will depend on if the Dept believes that the request is responsive to OS's request)

Pages 87-88: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and USGS-2018-00062

Pages 89-92: Responsive to USGS-2018-00070 and 2018-00062

From: Chris Saeger
To: foia@usgs.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification
Date: Tuesday, 17 April, 2018 15:03:45
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Mr. Pogány,

I do seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?

Thanks for your assistance!

Chris

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:25 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <foia@usgs.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Saeger:

On March 16, 2018, the USGS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office received your FOIA request, dated March 16, 2018, and assigned it control number **USGS-2018-00114**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request. You request the following information:

1. Request for access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent De Vito
- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

The FOIA requires that requests describe the records sought with sufficient detail to allow an agency employee familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Your request does not adequately describe the records sought, therefore, we are unable to process it at this time. If you wish to pursue your request, please let us know if there is a specific topic that you are seeking information about (e.g. the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement)? Can we limit our search to only records sent directly from or directly to the listed individuals and exclude any emails where someone may have been Courtesy Copied? Can we exclude attachments? If not, the attachments could balloon the volume of potentially responsive records and move this request into the Exceptional/Voluminous processing track and could take years to process.

According to our regulations, if we do not receive your written response clarifying what records you are looking for **within 20 workdays** from the date of this letter, **April 18, 2018**, we will presume that you are no longer interested in pursuing your request, we will not be able to comply with your request, and we will close our file on it. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.5\(d\)](#).

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact me by email at foia@usgs.gov or by phone at (303) 236-2737.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Geological Survey.

V/μ

Andreas

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: gpogany@usgs.gov

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704C East 13th Street, Suite 568
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-438-1918

FOIA Officer
United States Geological Survey
5522 Research Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228
E-mail: foia@usgs.gov

March 16, 2018

FOIA REQUEST

Dear Records Request Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

I also request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent DeVito

- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

"All correspondence" should include, but not be limited to, copies of digital and hardcopy information sent by, sent to, carbon copying ("CC"), or blind carbon copying ("BCC") any of these individuals during this time period.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).¹

Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."² The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Western Values Project does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Western Values Project's financial interest. Western Values Project's mission is to give a voice to Western values in the national conversation about resource development and public lands conservation, a space too often dominated by industry lobbyists and their government allies. Western Values Project will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Western Values Project will also make materials it gathers available on our public website <http://www.westernvaluesproject.org/>.

Accordingly, Western Values Project qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org.

¹ See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

If you have questions or need additional information from me, please feel free to call me at (406) 438-1918.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. If any documents are withheld based on the Agency's interpretation of any exemption, we request that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this *Vaughn* index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity as to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Saeger
Executive Director
Western Values Project

From: Brad Hennessy
To: foia@usgs.gov
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification
Date: Thursday, 26 April, 2018 15:48:48
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Mr. Pogány,

Following our conversation about narrowing of the scope of this FOIA, I'd like to add the additional limitations to our request:

- 1) The topic of this FOIA, for both portions of the request, is defined as: all communications about the resignation of Murray Hitzman and the retirement of Larry Meinert.
- 2) USGS can exclude all CCed and BCCed emails.
- 3) USGS can exclude all email attachments.
- 4) For the second portion of the request - all communications between USGS officials and the list of Department of Interior officials - I'd like USGS to limit their search to emails sent from December 7th to December 27th, 2017.

Thanks for your time!

Brad

On Thu, Apr 26, 2018 at 5:05 PM, Brad Hennessy <brad@westernvaluesproject.org> wrote:
Mr. Pogány,

Apologies, I was a couple of minutes late, but I'm on this teleconference call now.

Brad

On Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 5:18 PM, Brad Hennessy <brad@westernvaluesproject.org> wrote:

Mr. Pogány,

Excellent! How about a call at 3 pm? My number here is (406) 924-9491.

Thanks!

Brad

On Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 4:52 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <foia@usgs.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email. Those times work on my end.

Brad: Please let me know what time you would like me to schedule the call for.

Thank you.

V/r

Andreas

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: gpogany@usgs.gov



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or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete all copies of the message.

From: Chris Saeger <csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 April, 2018 14:13
To: foia@usgs.gov; Brad Hennessy <brad@westernvaluesproject.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification

Mr. Pogány,

I'm actually not available the rest of the week, but I've authorized my associate Brad to talk with you about this email (he's copied on this email) -- he said he's free to talk anytime tomorrow and Friday after 12:30. Would those times work for you?

Chris

On Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 1:50 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <foia@usgs.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Saeger,

Please send me a phone # and a day and time that would be convenient for you to have telephone call with you in reference to the above FOIA request on file with us.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to talking to you soon.

V/r

Andreas

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány
Government Information Specialist
Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA
U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey
Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53
Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A
Denver, Colorado 80225-0046
Ph: 303-236-2737
Email: gpogany@usgs.gov



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From: Chris Saeger <csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 April, 2018 15:03
To: foia@usgs.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification

Dear Mr. Pogány,

I do seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?

Thanks for your assistance!

Chris

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:25 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <foia@usgs.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Saeger:

On March 16, 2018, the USGS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office received your FOIA request, dated March 16, 2018, and assigned it control number **USGS-2018-00114**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request. You request the following information:

1. Request for access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman

- Larry Meinert

2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent De Vito
- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

The FOIA requires that requests describe the records sought with sufficient detail to allow an agency employee familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Your request does not adequately describe the records sought, therefore, we are unable to process it at this time. If you wish to pursue your request, please let us know if there is a specific topic that you are seeking information about (e.g. the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement)? Can we limit our search to only records sent directly from or directly to the listed individuals and exclude any emails where someone may have been Courtesy Copied? Can we exclude attachments? If not, the

attachments could balloon the volume of potentially responsive records and move this request into the Exceptional/Voluminous processing track and could take years to process.

According to our regulations, if we do not receive your written response clarifying what records you are looking for **within 20 workdays** from the date of this letter, **April 18, 2018**, we will presume that you are no longer interested in pursuing your request, we will not be able to comply with your request, and we will close our file on it. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.5\(d\)](#).

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact me by email at foia@usgs.gov or by phone at (303) 236-2737.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Geological Survey.

V/r

Andreas

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: gpogany@usgs.gov



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message (including any attachments) is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete all copies of the message.



[EXTERNAL] Re: USGS FOIA 2018-00114 - Response

1 message

Chris Saeger <csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org>
To: foia@usgs.gov

Thu, Oct 11, 2018 at 12:01 PM

Dear Ms. Cearley,

I appreciate the response, and the attempt to return responsive documents. However, I do not believe this satisfies my request., especially the second portion of the request: "I request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017..."

That being said, to try to make this search easier, I'd be willing to significantly narrow the first portion of the request by inserting a keyword search (in bold) and removing Werkheiser from the list for targeted accounts (however, please keep him in the second portion of the request, for all correspondence between USGS and DOI officials). Hopefully, this will help reduce your search time:

"I also request access to and copies of all correspondence **that includes the word "Werkhesier,"** including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert"

Thank you for your time.



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Governors Office

1 message

Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>
To: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>
Bcc: jnowakowski@usgs.gov

Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 3:19 PM

I'm sorry, but...

I'm not sure what Dave means by framework, but are we giving an indication of whether the numbers are up, down, or unchanged (which I heard we customarily do for DOI) to help AK prepare for media? I'm guessing up, down, or unchanged alone could be very helpful in lots of transactions. The logic here still escapes me.

Thanks!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Houseknecht, David" <dhouse@usgs.gov>
Date: December 20, 2017 at 9:41:29 AM EST
To: Judy J Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Julia Jester <jjester@usgs.gov>, "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>, Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Governors Office

Normally, I would not bring this to your attention, but considering events of the past few days I want to bring you up to speed on request I received from the Alaska Governors Office late yesterday (will forward that email in a minute). I talked by phone to the Governors DC rep about 6:45 last evening and agreed to do a briefing this afternoon. I informed Walter and invited him to attend, but he is has conflicting meetings.

This morning, I emailed **Andrea T.** and that thread is provided below.

Stay tuned!

Dave Houseknecht
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
MS 956
Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-6466

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Houseknecht, David <dhouse@usgs.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 9:28 AM
Subject: Re: Governors Office
To: "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

Around 2:30 pm. I will take shuttle to DOI and then taxi to Governors Office.

This was reason for request (from Crowther's email to me): Wanted to reach out to you about the potential for State of Alaska briefings on the upcoming USGS North Slope assessments so that we can be prepared for the significant media interest that we expect.

I briefed the Alaska Commissioner of DNR (Andy Mack) and his staff in May 2017, and then the Governor and his staff later that same week. Crowther and Decker were included in those briefings. And, Decker participated in our public review meeting in Anchorage in early November 2017. Consequently, I anticipate this will be more of a refresher than anything.

Dave Houseknecht
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
MS 956
Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-6466

On Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 9:21 AM, Travnicek, Andrea <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Dave-

I am including Laura Rigas on this e-mail as she is the head of Comms. Please coordinate with her to insure she is okay with this. I will call her and give a heads up also.

When and what time is this meeting?

Andrea

Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
work: 202-208-0969
cell: 202-897-7220

On Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 9:14 AM, Houseknecht, David <dhhouse@usgs.gov> wrote:

Andrea - late yesterday I was contacted by the Alaska Governors Office asking for a pre-release briefing on the assessment. I agreed with the understanding that the content will be framework of the assessment only and NO NUMBERS will be included.

Participants will be John Crowther (Governors Rep in DC), Elizabeth Bluemink (Governors staff in Anchorage), and Paul Decker (Alaska Division of Oil and Gas, Manager of Resource Evaluation Group). Elizabeth and Paul will be via phone.

Dave Houseknecht
U.S. Geological Survey
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Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-6466



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Fwd: FW: Couple of things

1 message

Houseknecht, David <dhouse@usgs.gov>

Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 9:42 AM

To: Judy J Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Julia Jester <jjester@usgs.gov>, "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>

Crowther email from yesterday.

Dave Houseknecht
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
MS 956
Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-6466

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Crowther, John J (GOV)** <john.crowther@alaska.gov>

Date: Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 4:33 PM

Subject: FW: Couple of things

To: "dhouse@usgs.gov" <dhouse@usgs.gov>

Cc: "Decker, Paul L (DNR)" <paul.decker@alaska.gov>, "Bluemink, Elizabeth (DNR)" <elizabeth.bluemink@alaska.gov>

Dave –

Wanted to reach out to you about the potential for State of Alaska briefings on the upcoming USGS North Slope assessments so that we can be prepared for the significant media interest that we expect.

I've talked with Paul and Elizabeth (cc'd here) and I understand the release will probably be this Friday, the 22nd? If possible we would like to get a limited, embargoed briefing (if possible) on Thursday given the time-zone differences – but in any event we would really appreciate discussing as you're able.

If you recall, we were able to meet briefly earlier this year in Alaska at the GMC – at the time I was working for DNR Commissioner Mack, but I'm working out of the Governor's office in DC now – I'll have to make my way out to Reston sometime!

Happy Holidays,

John Crowther

Director of State and Federal Relations

Office of Alaska Governor Bill Walker

(202) 624-5988 desk

john.crowther@alaska.gov



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Briefing Question

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 1:01 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>
Date: Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 12:31 PM
Subject: Re: Briefing Question
To: Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>

Thanks, Murray. Talking to Bill mid-day.

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600
applegate@usgs.gov

On Dec 16, 2017, at 12:28 AM, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:

Usgs phone no. 202-706-2821. Thanks for stopping by Dave

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2017, at 8:02 PM, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

Is now okay to swing by?

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
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12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600
applegate@usgs.gov

On Dec 15, 2017, at 5:50 PM, Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:

please do not send anything today - I am meeting Dave A. this evening and we can talk it through.

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:34 PM, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

I am willing to bring a hard copy to the Department on Sunday with numbers. We could offer a digital version without numbers as an alternative. I definitely do not feel comfortable sharing the numbers electronically outside USGS.

Would want to run that by Bill.

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600
applegate@usgs.gov

On Dec 15, 2017, at 5:27 PM, Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:

Just speaking personally I would send with numbers blanked and say those will be provided monday - but that will be david a's call.

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:23 PM, Houseknecht, David <dhouse@usgs.gov> wrote:

Got a phone call from Andrea asking if I would send her the briefing slides this weekend as "the Secretary likes to see them ahead of the briefing."

Thoughts on sending them?

Dave Houseknecht
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#)
MS 956
Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-6466

--
Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576

--
Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Briefing Question

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:31 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Murray Hitzman** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Date: Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 8:04 PM
Subject: Re: Briefing Question
To: "Houseknecht, David" <dhouse@usgs.gov>
Cc: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>

Ok

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 16, 2017, at 8:01 PM, Houseknecht, David <dhouse@usgs.gov> wrote:
>
> I will add password and send now. Call my home number (b) (6) and I
> will give you password.
>
> Dave Houseknecht
> U.S. Geological Survey
> 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
> MS 956
> Reston, VA 20192
> (703) 648-6466
>
>> On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 7:36 PM, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>
>> Is everybody okay on the disclaimers. Once that's so, then go ahead and
>> send to me. I'll let Andrea know how we are prepared to handle this
>> additional pre-release request. Probably won't be able to do that til later
>> tonight.
>>
>> Thanks, Dave
>>
>> *-----*
>> David Applegate, Ph.D.
>> Associate Director for Natural Hazards
>> Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
>> U.S. Geological Survey
>> 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
>> Reston VA 20192
>> 703 648 6600
>> applegate@usgs.gov
>>
>> On Dec 16, 2017, at 1:17 PM, Houseknecht, David <dhouse@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>
>> I can send password-secured pdf to Dave anytime - it's ready as far as I'm
>> concerned.
>>
>> Dave Houseknecht
>> U.S. Geological Survey
>> 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
>> <<https://maps.google.com/?q=12201+Sunrise+Valley+Drive&entry=gmail&source=g>>

>> MS 956
>> Reston, VA 20192
>> (703) 648-6466
>>
>>> On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 1:12 PM, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>> Best would be Dave a. Delivering hard copy to doi tomorrow if possible
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>> On Dec 16, 2017, at 1:10 PM, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>> Dave,
>>>
>>> Bernhardt told us that we have to provide the numbers to the Secretary on
>>> Monday, and I am still more comfortable with just a hard copy. Even a
>>> password-protected PDF seems problematic given the number of people who no
>>> doubt have access to their email addresses. I am willing to bring a hard
>>> copy when finalized tomorrow or first thing tomorrow morning. We are in
>>> uncharted waters.
>>>
>>> I'm okay with the revised disclaimer. The key is having one.
>>>
>>> Dave
>>>
>>> *-----*
>>> David Applegate, Ph.D.
>>> Associate Director for Natural Hazards
>>> Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
>>> U.S. Geological Survey
>>> 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
>>> Reston VA 20192
>>> 703 648 6600
>>> applegate@usgs.gov
>>>
>>> On Dec 16, 2017, at 12:35 PM, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>> I think the method of sending sounds ok if Dave is ok with it.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>> On Dec 16, 2017, at 10:05 AM, Houseknecht, David <dhouse@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>>
>>> yesterday and send to Dave and Walter for review.
>>>
>>>
>>> 2. Late today or tomorrow (Sunday) I will make any further revisions
>>> suggested by Dave and Walter.
>>>
>>>
>>> 3. I will convert slide deck to a password-secured pdf file, email that
>>> to Andrea, a
>>>
>>>
>>
> <BRIEFING_secure.pdf>



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: critical minerals release next week... maybe?

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:39 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Crafford, Thomas** <tcrafford@usgs.gov>

Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 10:45 AM

Subject: Re: critical minerals release next week... maybe?

To: "Applegate, David" <applegate@usgs.gov>

Cc: "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Sarah Ryker <sryker@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>, "A.B. Wade" <abwade@usgs.gov>, Julia Jester <jjester@usgs.gov>, "Lukas, William" <wlukas@usgs.gov>, "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>, Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>

#9 Hafnium also needs text

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 10:30 AM, Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

All,

At this morning's meeting with the Deputy Secretary, we heard that there may be a delay of a day or two in the joint USGS-BOEM North Slope assessment release. Andrea Travnicek is working to get clarity on this and will update us as she can.

Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 9:29 AM, Jones, Leslie <ljones@usgs.gov> wrote:

Just a reminder that the NPRA assessment is (scheduled) to go out on Dec. 20th, so we may not want competing releases on the same day. However, that one could be shifted too...

Leslie

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 7:22 AM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:

Dave,

This is sort of good news although you are correct that we have heard this song before. Given that we MUST have a 2017 date on this publication I suggest that we set a firm date of Wednesday Dec. 20 so that publications can do their job to get this out the door. Needless to say that releasing this report at the end of the year near Christmas is the WORST possible time to release any publication because it assures minimal notice. After more than a year of delay for no productive reason, to now release this report at this time looks bad and it is a simple fact that the project was started five years ago and finished more than a year ago.

Larry

On Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 11:59 PM, Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

All,

At this afternoon's biweekly Water & Science meeting with the Deputy Secretary, I was told that they expected the release of the critical minerals report to take place next week along with White House releases.

I know you have heard this song before, so we'll see if this time's the charm. I did emphasize that it is very important, nay critical, that the report come out in 2017, and I was assured that even if the broader release fell through, we would be able to release the report before the end of the month.

Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](https://www.usgs.gov/locations/national-center) MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov

--

Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals
[U.S. Geological Survey](https://www.usgs.gov/locations/national-center)
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov

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~~~~~  
Leslie W. Jones  
Science Publishing Network Chief and  
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing  
U.S. Geological Survey  
MS 119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-4354 FAX: 703-648-4466  
[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)  
~~~~~

--

Thomas (Tom) C. Crafford
USGS Mineral Resources Program Coordinator

U. S. Geological Survey
913 National Center
[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](https://www.usgs.gov/locations/national-center)
[Reston, VA 20192 USA](https://www.usgs.gov/locations/national-center)

Phone: 703-648-6108
Email: tcrafford@usgs.gov

5/11/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: critical minerals release next week... maybe?



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: critical minerals

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:45 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrea Travnicek** <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 7:42 AM
Subject: Re: critical minerals
To: "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>

Yes. Today actually

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 11, 2017, at 5:36 AM, Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:

have been traveling and back in this morning. do you still need me to call?
murray

On Sun, Dec 10, 2017 at 12:06 PM, **Travnicek, Andrea** <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Murray-

Tried to get a hold of you last week. Can you give me a call today or tomorrow? There are some questions on coordinating with NSTC. I want to insure we are doing that based on the last call we had a few weeks ago so we aren't holding anything up.

Please call my cell at your earliest convenience as I need to call OSTP back.

Thanks.
Andrea
Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
work: 202-208-0969
cell: 202-897-7220

--

Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:37 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 3:43 PM
Subject: Re: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment
To: Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>

how did it go with dave? what about grants they are going to get yelled at about?? you can call me at 202-706-2821

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:53 PM, Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov> wrote:

Have made edits to Houseknecht's slides as we discussed. At 3:30 today I'll go to Applegate's office and Houseknecht will join in by phone to review the slide deck. When I talked to Applegate, he indicated that he doubted they'd even go over the slide deck on Monday; apparently they're going to get yelled at re: grants. You've also seen that the NPRA assessment release is now set for Friday (a joint release with BOEM). As I was scheduled to fly out on Friday, I'm OK with changing flights to a Saturday flight (assuming I can find one) but would USGS pick up the likely difference in airfare? Thanks...

Walter

From: Applegate, David [mailto:applegate@usgs.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 2:43 PM
To: A.B. Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>; Leslie W Jones <ljones@usgs.gov>; Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>; Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>; Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>; Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>; Sarah Ryker <sryker@usgs.gov>; David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>; Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>; David Houseknecht <dhouse@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Betsy Hildebrandt <bhildebrandt@usgs.gov>; Catherine Puckett <catherine_puckett@usgs.gov>
Cc: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>
Subject: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

All,

Just got off the phone with **Andrea Travnicek**:

Critical Minerals

They still don't know if the President will sign EO on Tuesday but are working that issue. DOI Comms has asked if USGS would be ready to release the minerals report on Monday whether or not the

Since you've been waiting for a year, I went out on a limb and said yes. I let Andrea know that Murray would be in Ireland but that Larry was available.

NPRA Assessment

Target release pushed back to Friday, Dec. 22nd

Bill W and I are to brief the Secretary at 10am on Monday (the Secretary is also going to raise a separate sensitive matter, so just Bill and I invited); they would, however, like to have Dave Houseknecht in the building and available should the Secretary pursue specific questions (Dave -- I'll figure out how close in the building you can be). We can use 3-4 page Powerpoint with disclaimer on the sheets if we like (sensitive, pre-release, not to be shared, etc.).

DOI wants a joint press release announcing both the USGS and BOEM assessments, so no separate USGS news release.

They want to be sure that libraries don't receive hard copies of the fact sheet ahead of the release.

More as I learn it...

Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards

Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111, Reston VA 20192

703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov

--
Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:37 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hitzman, Murray** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>

Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 3:49 PM

Subject: Re: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

To: "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>

Cc: "Applegate, David" <applegate@usgs.gov>, "A.B. Wade" <abwade@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>, Sarah Ryker <sryker@usgs.gov>, David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>, Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>, David Houseknecht <dhouse@usgs.gov>, "Lukas, William" <wlukas@usgs.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <bhildebrandt@usgs.gov>, Catherine Puckett <catherine_puckett@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

thanks Leslie

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:58 PM, Jones, Leslie <ljones@usgs.gov> wrote:

We would need about 3 hours notice to get all the release dates changed and check 508, but we are otherwise ready to go with PP1802. Please include Reston PSC Chief Katharine Schindler (kschindl@usgs.gov) on any email that establishes a release time on Monday.

Thanks,

Leslie

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

All,

Just got off the phone with Andrea Travnicek:

Critical Minerals

They still don't know if the President will sign EO on Tuesday but are working that issue. DOI Comms has asked if USGS would be ready to release the minerals report on Monday whether or not the

Since you've been waiting for a year, I went out on a limb and said yes. I let Andrea know that Murray would be in Ireland but that Larry was available.

NPRA Assessment

Target release pushed back to Friday, Dec. 22nd

Bill W and I are to brief the Secretary at 10am on Monday (the Secretary is also going to raise a separate sensitive matter, so just Bill and I invited); they would, however, like to have Dave Houseknecht in the building and available should the Secretary pursue specific questions (Dave -- I'll figure out how close in the building you can be). We can use 3-4 page Powerpoint with disclaimer on the sheets if we like (sensitive, pre-release, not to be shared, etc.).

DOI wants a joint press release announcing both the USGS and BOEM assessments, so no separate USGS news release.

They want to be sure that libraries don't receive hard copies of the fact sheet ahead of the release.

More as I learn it...

Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#) MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov

--

~~~~~  
Leslie W. Jones  
Science Publishing Network Chief and  
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing  
U.S. Geological Survey  
MS 119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-4354 FAX: 703-648-4466  
[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)  
~~~~~

--

Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Quick Call Today?

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:35 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rigas, Laura** <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:06 PM
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?
To: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Cc: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Leslie Jones <ljones@usgs.gov>

Many thanks, Larry and Murray. Will keep you posted on the schedule.
My best,
L

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:02 PM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:
Laura,

Good to talk with you just now about the pending rollout of PP1802. Murray and I have gone through the Powerpoint and the Q&As so we are all on the same page. The only thing changed from previous versions is the title page with speaker and date. Attached are the final versions of both the Powerpoint and Q&As. Let us know if you need anything further.

Best regards,

Larry and Murray

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:03 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Wonderful, thanks, Larry! If you could call my cell below, that would be great. When should I look out for the call? I'm free after 4:30.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 3:57 PM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:
Yes to both. Should I call you?

Larry

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 3:45 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Larry --

Do you have time for a quick call this afternoon? Wanted to see if you are available on Monday or Tuesday to help us roll out the critical minerals report. There's a lot of moving pieces, so would be great to connect today.

Many thanks,

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior*

--

Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](#), MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov

--

Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](#), MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: update on next week's release?

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:41 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walter Guidroz** <wguidroz@usgs.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 12:28 PM
Subject: RE: update on next week's release?
To: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>

Dave, I tried calling you but couldn't reach you so I've included relevant talking points below. Please feel free to let me know if you need to discuss further; thanks...

- USGS is ready to release the results of the NPRA resource assessment. Fact sheets are being printed and are due to arrive here on Dec 19th. A draft of a press release is being circulated with our Office of Communications and should be ready to go.

- A meeting is set for Friday at DOI (Bill's been invited to attend) to determine the precise date and time of the release. Other attendees will be Kate MacGregor, Andrea Travnicek (by phone), Dave Houseknecht, Murray, Walter Cruikshank (BOEM), Jim Cason, David Bernhardt and Vincent DeVito, among others. Because the meeting is scheduled for 8n AM, I think it's likely that most attendees will simply dial in by phone rather than attend in person.

- Based on a meeting that Dave Houseknecht and I had with Andrea Travnicek last Friday, I believe the sequence on 'release day' will be to start with a DOI briefing (and possibly a Secretarial briefing immediately before; don't know the details on that or whether it's even been worked out - Andrea mentioned this in our meeting), followed by Congressional briefings and then a media event. Planning for those is underway.

- At this point I'm not sure if BOEM will be ready to go with a simultaneous release; I believe the issue of their readiness may be part of the rationale behind tomorrow morning's meeting. Our stance is that if BOEM isn't ready to go then we should still proceed with the USGS release, if anything because if there's any delay then it's just that much longer for our numbers are 'out there' and could become divulged before any formal release.

Hope this helps...

Walter

From: Applegate, David [mailto:applegate@usgs.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>; Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>; David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>
Subject: update on next week's release?

Walter,

I hate to put anything else on your plate, but could we have a quick chat or just generate a quick email describing where things stand with next week's assessment release. I'm going for Bill W to a 4pm bi-weekly W&S tag-up meeting with the Deputy Secretary, and we have this on the agenda. This is the blurb from the Weekly Report, so anything you have beyond that:

On December 20 or 21, the USGS and BOEM will release a new assessment of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and natural gas resources for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and adjacent offshore waters. The updated assessment was completed under Secretarial Order 3352, "National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska", which directs the USGS to lead a multi-agency effort between USGS, BOEM and BLM to update current energy assessments for undiscovered,

technically recoverable oil and natural gas resources of Alaska's North Slope, focusing on Federal lands including the NPRA and Section 1002 Area. USGS, BOEM and the Department are coordinating on plans to announce this new assessment.

Thanks, Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards

Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#) MS 111, Reston VA 20192

703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Energy Liaisons Group engagement

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hitzman, Murray** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 12:12 PM
Subject: Re: Energy Liaisons Group engagement
To: **Katharine MacGregor** <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Timothy Spisak <tspisak@blm.gov>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Lindow <emily.lindow@boem.gov>, Basil Ottley <basil_ottley@ios.doi.gov>, **Daniel Jorjani** <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>, **Casey Hammond** <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>, **James Schindler** <james.schindler@boem.gov>, Guy Adema <guy_adema@nps.gov>, Jeffrey Hunt <jeffrey.hunt@bia.gov>, Darryl LaCounte <darryl.lacounte@bia.gov>, Karla Cook <karla.cook@boem.gov>, **Landon Davis** <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Aubrey <craig_aubrey@fws.gov>, Max Spiker <mspiker@usbr.gov>, Lisa Norby <lisa_norby@nps.gov>, Jennifer Wyse <jennifer_wyse@nps.gov>, Michaela Noble <michaela_noble@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, **Todd Willens** <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Haugrud <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>, **Kerry Rae** <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>, Dave Steensen <dave_steensen@nps.gov>, **Scott Angelle** <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>, **Blake Deeley** <blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov>, **Landon Davis** <ldavis@osmre.gov>, Raymond Sauvajot <ray_sauvajot@nps.gov>, **Stephen Wackowski** <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>, **Joshua Campbell** <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov>, **Stephen Wackowski** <steve_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>, **Steven Smith** <steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Nedd <mike_nedd@blm.gov>, Jason Funes <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>, **William Dove** <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Stolte <christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov>, **Downey Magallanes** <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Ann Navaro <ann.navaro@sol.doi.gov>

although I cannot do Wednesday, I could do Friday

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 12:11 PM, **Katharine MacGregor** <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I can do next Wednesday or Friday.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2017, at 12:00 PM, Timothy Spisak <tspisak@blm.gov> wrote:

Next Wednesday 1:30 is open for me.

Thanks!

Tim

'Serenity Now!' – Frank Costanza, *Seinfeld*, 1997'Serenity now, insanity later' – Lloyd Braun, *Seinfeld*, 1997

Timothy 'Tim' R. Spisak

Acting Assistant Director,

Energy, Minerals & Realty Management, WO-300

DOI-Bureau of Land Management

tspisak@blm.gov

(202) 208-4201 office

(202) 251-3079 cell

From: Ojeda-dodds, Gisella [mailto:gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:57 AM

To: Emily Lindow <emily.lindow@boem.gov>; Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>; Basil Ottley <basil_ottley@ios.doi.gov>; Daniel Jorjani <daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov>; Casey Hammond <casey_hammond@ios.doi.gov>; Katharine MacGregor <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>; James Schindler <james.schindler@boem.gov>; Guy Adema <guy_adema@nps.gov>; Jeffrey Hunt <jeffrey.hunt@bia.gov>; Darryl LaCounte <darryl.lacounte@bia.gov>; Karla Cook <karla.cook@boem.gov>; Landon Davis <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov>; Craig Aubrey <craig_aubrey@fws.gov>; Max Spiker <mspiker@usbr.gov>; Lisa Norby <lisa_norby@nps.gov>; Jennifer Wyse <jennifer_wyse@nps.gov>; Michaela Noble <michaela_noble@ios.doi.gov>; Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>; Willens, Todd <todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>; Kevin Haugrud <jack.haugrud@sol.doi.gov>; Kerry Rae <kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov>; Dave Steensen <dave_steensen@nps.gov>; Scott Angelle <scott.angelle@bsee.gov>; Deeley, Blake <blake_deeley@ios.doi.gov>; Landon Davis <ldavis@osmre.gov>; Raymond Sauvajot <ray_sauvajot@nps.gov>; Wackowski, Stephen <stephen_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>; Campbell, Joshua <joshua.campbell@sol.doi.gov>; Stephen Wackowski <steve_wackowski@ios.doi.gov>; Smith, Steven <steven_m_smith@ios.doi.gov>; Timothy Spisak <tspisak@blm.gov>; Michael Nedd <mike_nedd@blm.gov>; Funes, Jason <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>; William Dove <william_dove@ios.doi.gov>; Christopher Stolte <christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov>; Magallanes, Downey <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>; Navaro, Ann <ann.navaro@sol.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: Energy Liaisons Group engagement

Good Morning,

Mr. DeVito will be available next week as follows:

Wednesday, December 20

- 11AM

- 1:30PM

Please let me know if you are available for either time or are able to dial-in.

Sincerely,

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds

On Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 5:20 PM, Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello,

I hope this note finds you all very well. Since we last communicated, the Department recently released its Energy Burdens Report ("Report"), which provides a full analysis of burdens in place that unnecessarily hinder production on federal lands. Along with the Report, the Secretary announced the Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting (the "ECEP") which was the most recent initiative about which this group was communicating.

The break between our convening was based upon the ECEP being announced and launched as this group will be supporting the ECEP. So, I apologize for the communication gap; and, thank you for your patience. Very recently, the ECEP, which will give attention to a wide-range of permitting improvement initiatives, had its initial meeting and I would like for us to converge again so I can bring you up to date and share some initial ideas for collective discussion.

Gisella (copied) will be inviting you all to a meeting next week (along with a conference line) so that we can pick-up on our work. Thank you for the work we have done together so far. The ECEP is the product of this group; so, I am excited to continue our work together.

Best,

Vincent

--

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds

Executive Assistant to Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy

Immediate Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 5153-MIB

Washington, D.C. 20240

Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105

Facsimile: (202) 208-4561

E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov

5/11/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: Energy Liaisons Group engagement

--

Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](#), MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Hitzman powerpoint for Tuesday

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:36 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hitzman, Murray** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Hitzman powerpoint for Tuesday
To: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hitzman, Murray** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 5:13 PM
Subject: Hitzman powerpoint for Tuesday
To: Catherine <cpuckett@usgs.gov>, "to: Laura Rigas" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, "cc: Russell Johnson" <russell_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, William Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>, Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <bhildebrandt@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, "Demas, Alex" <apdemas@usgs.gov>

I have not heard back from USGS Comms on the proposed powerpoint on Prof Paper 1802 that I sent in this morning. I am copying it to you for feedback. Thanks.

--

Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576

--

Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
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Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



prof paper 1802 - hitzman presentation.pptx
10385K



Mengestu, Hirut <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

**Fwd: Invitation: Briefing with USGS @ Fri Dec 15, 2017 1pm - 1:30pm
(mhitzman@usgs.gov)**

1 message

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:41 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hitzman, Murray** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 1:11 PM
Subject: Fwd: Invitation: Briefing with USGS @ Fri Dec 15, 2017 1pm - 1:30pm (mhitzman@usgs.gov)
To: "Mengestu, Hirut" <hmengestu@usgs.gov>

do we know what this is about??

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Bernhardt** <(b) (6)@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 12:31 PM
Subject: Invitation: Briefing with USGS @ Fri Dec 15, 2017 1pm - 1:30pm (mhitzman@usgs.gov)
To: mhitzman@usgs.gov, todd_willens@ios.doi.gov, akinsinger@usgs.gov, wlukas@usgs.gov, casey_stemler@fws.gov, andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov
Cc: kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov, mrharris@usgs.gov, whwerkhe@usgs.gov, michelle_brown@ios.doi.gov

Briefing with USGS[more details »](#)

When Fri Dec 15, 2017 1pm – 1:30pm Eastern Time

Where Room 6120 ([map](#))

Video call [https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/\(b\)\(6\)](https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/(b)(6))

Calendar [mhitzman@usgs.gov](#)

Who

- (b) (6)@ios.doi.gov - organizer
- [gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov](#) - creator
- [mhitzman@usgs.gov](#)
- [todd_willens@ios.doi.gov](#)
- [akinsinger@usgs.gov](#)
- [wlukas@usgs.gov](#)
- [casey_stemler@fws.gov](#)
- [andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov](#)
- [kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov](#) - optional
- [mrharris@usgs.gov](#) - optional
- [whwerkhe@usgs.gov](#) - optional
- [michelle_brown@ios.doi.gov](#) - optional

Going? **Yes** - **Maybe** - **No** [more options »](#)Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account [mhitzman@usgs.gov](#) because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar [mhitzman@usgs.gov](#).

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

5/11/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: Invitation: Briefing with USGS @ Fri Dec 15, 2017 1pm - 1:30pm (mhitzman@usgs.gov)

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. [Learn More](#).

--

Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576



invite.ics
3K

Label: "FOIA 12-2018"

Created by: lmeinert@usgs.gov

Total Messages in label: 70 (10 conversations)

Created: 05-04-2018 at 12:53 PM

"Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 12:41:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>
CC: "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Updated invitation: Prebrief Critical Minerals @ Mon Dec 18, 2017 5:15pm - 5:35pm (lmeinert@usgs.gov)
Attachments: invite.ics

I don't know why I am the only USGS person getting these invites. I will go to DOI since I am downtown already. I don't expect anything different than what we have already discussed.

Larry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Leila Getto <leila_getto@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 1:10 PM
Subject: Updated invitation: Prebrief Critical Minerals @ Mon Dec 18, 2017 5:15pm - 5:35pm (lmeinert@usgs.gov)
To: lmeinert@usgs.gov, downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov, andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov, james_cason@ios.doi.gov, todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov, laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov

This event has been changed.

Prebrief Critical Minerals

[more details »](#)

When **Changed:** Mon Dec 18, 2017 5:15pm – 5:35pm Eastern Time

Where Secretary's Conference Room ([map](#))

Calendar lmeinert@usgs.gov

Who

- cdr06@ios.doi.gov - organizer
- leila_getto@ios.doi.gov - creator
- downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
- andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov
- lmeinert@usgs.gov
- james_cason@ios.doi.gov
- todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov
- laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov

Going? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account lmeinert@usgs.gov because you are subscribed for updated invitations on calendar lmeinert@usgs.gov.

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--

Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Press Release - Critical Minerals

"Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>

From: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 10:15:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Bill Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Press Release - Critical Minerals

here's the release that DOI plans to issue. I've pushed back already on the headline but it fell on deaf ears.

Larry, pls see highlighted question from Heather below...

A.B. Wade
[USGS](#) Press Officer
703-648-4483 desk
703-317-7871 mobile

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Swift, Heather** <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:02 PM
Subject: Press Release - Critical Minerals
To: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Catherine Puckett <cpuckett@usgs.gov>

Below is the press release we intend to send some time after the briefing tomorrow.

*In the event that it had to be moved to 9:30, would that be able to work for your team, AB?



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: December 18, 2017

SHOCKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS

U.S. 100 percent foreign-reliant

for 20 minerals, Rare Earth minerals produced almost exclusively in China

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"I commend the team of scientists at USGS for the extensive work put into the report, but the findings are shocking," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "The fact that previous administrations allowed the United States to become reliant on foreign nations, including our competitors and adversaries, for minerals that are so strategically important to our security and economy is deeply troubling. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for what the military needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe."

The report found the United States is most reliant on China for critical minerals with at least 20 critical minerals being sourced exclusively in China. Russia, South Africa, Brazil and Canada also supply many of our minerals.

The mineral commodities highlighted in this book have been called critical or strategic owing to concerns about risk of supply interruption and the cost of such a disruption. Such critical mineral commodities include rare-earth elements, used in high-end electronics, and platinum-group elements, used in catalytic converters and petroleum refining.

"The beauty of this report is that we can provide complete minerals information for the Nation," **said Klaus Schulz, an editor and author of the volume**. "The USGS combines short- and medium-term data on the current global supply of minerals with research on the long-term potential of these minerals through our mineral-resource assessments. Despite current supply concerns, one thing we shouldn't lose sight of is that we will also need mineral commodities far into the future. We wanted to identify future needs too, so we included information to help plan for the sustainable development of each of these minerals."

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For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.

According to the recently released USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2017, the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and several of the other mineral commodities covered in the new volume.

This number has risen dramatically over the past 60 years. For example, in 1954 the United States was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of only eight nonfuel mineral commodities and by 1984 for 11 commodities.

Since 1973, there has also been a significant increase in knowledge about geologic and environmental issues related to production and use. This report addresses the sustainable development of each mineral commodity in order that the current needs of the Nation can be met without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

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Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

"Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 10:26:42 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>
CC: Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Bill Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Release - Critical Minerals

Yes, I already replied to them that I can do the 9:30 am.

Larry

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:15 PM, Wade, Anne-Berry <abwade@usgs.gov> wrote:
here's the release that DOI plans to issue. I've pushed back already on the headline but it fell on deaf ears.

Larry, pls see highlighted question from Heather below...

A.B. Wade

[USGS](#) Press Officer

703-648-4483 desk

703-317-7871 mobile

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Swift, Heather** <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:02 PM

Subject: Press Release - Critical Minerals

To: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Catherine Puckett <cpuckett@usgs.gov>

Below is the press release we intend to send some time after the briefing tomorrow.

*In the event that it had to be moved to 9:30, would that be able to work for your team, AB?



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: December 18, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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U.S. 100 percent foreign-reliant

for 20 minerals, Rare Earth minerals produced almost exclusively in China

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“The beauty of this report is that we can provide complete minerals information for the Nation,” said **Klaus Schulz, an editor and author of the volume**. “The USGS combines short- and medium-term data on the current global supply of minerals with research on the long-term potential of these minerals through our mineral-resource assessments. Despite current supply concerns, one thing we shouldn’t lose sight of is that we will also need mineral commodities far into the future. We wanted to identify future needs too, so we included information to help plan for the sustainable development of each of these minerals.”

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Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals

U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov

Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>

From: Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 11:09:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Wade, Anne-Berry" <abwade@usgs.gov>
CC: Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>, Bill Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Release - Critical Minerals

Thanks AB. Yes the headline does not fit the publication - but I assume more will look I up.

Sent from my iPhone

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Heather Swift

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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Critical Minerals Coverage

Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>

From: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 19 2017 11:13:01 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Alex Demas <apdemas@usgs.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Bill Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Critical Minerals Coverage

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hinson, Alex <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 1:08 PM
Subject: Critical Minerals Coverage
To: Wade, Anne-Berry <abwade@usgs.gov>

[Seattle Times \(AP\): Interior Dept. says US relies on China for critical minerals](#)

Matthew Daly
December 19, 2017

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Interior Department says in a new report that the United States is reliant on China and other nations for the overwhelming majority of critical minerals used by the military and for manufacturing everything from smartphones to wind turbines and cars.

The report released Tuesday by the U.S. Geological Survey says the U.S. relies on foreign sources for a majority of all but two of the 23 minerals identified as critical. The minerals are produced in China, Russia, South Africa, Brazil and other countries.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke called the report troubling and said the reliance of imported minerals, especially by the military, poses a "very real national security risk."

Zinke urged increased U.S. production of platinum, manganese and other critical minerals, especially on federal lands.

###

[Reuters: U.S. sees foreign reliance for 'critical' minerals as security concern](#)

Valerie Volcovici
December 19, 2017

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States needs to encourage domestic production of a handful of minerals critical for the technology and defense industries, and stem reliance on China, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said on Tuesday.

Zinke made the remarks at the Interior Department as he unveiled a report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which detailed the extent to which the United States is dependent upon foreign competitors for its supply of certain minerals.

The report identified 23 out of 88 minerals that are priorities for U.S. national defense and the economy because they are components in products ranging from batteries to military equipment.

The report found that the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and others. In 1954, the U.S. was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of just eight nonfuel mineral commodities.

"We have the minerals here and likely we have enough to provide our needs and be a world trader in them, but we have to go forward and identify where they are at," Zinke told reporters at an Interior Department briefing.

He also blamed previous administrations for allowing foreign competitors like China to dominate mineral production for minerals, such as rare earth elements, used in smart phones, computers and military equipment.

Zinke said the report is likely to shape Interior Department policy-making in 2018, as the agency looks to carry out its "Energy Dominance" strategy, expanding mining and resource extraction on federal lands.

The survey is the first update of a 1973 USGS report that catalogued the production of minerals worldwide. The update was started under the Obama administration in 2013.

Many of the commodities that are covered in the new volume were of minor importance when the original survey was done, since it pre-dated the global electronics boom.

The USGS and Interior Department said the report is meant to be used by national security experts, economists, private companies, the World Bank and resource managers.

It does not offer policy recommendations, but Zinke will rely on the findings as he prioritizes research into certain mineral deposit areas on federal land and plans policies to promote mining.

"We do expect that to lead to policy changes. The USGS is not involved in policy, but I suspect you will see some policy changes," said Larry Meinert, lead author of the report.

Reporting by Valerie Volcovici; editing by Richard Valdmanis and G Crosse

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--
Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

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A.B. Wade
[USGS](#) Press Officer
703-648-4483 desk

"Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 19 2017 11:31:48 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>
CC: Alex Demas <apdemas@usgs.gov>, Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Bill Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>
BCC: Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@mines.edu>
Subject: Re: Critical Minerals Coverage

Nice coverage. The quote attribution in the last sentence is not quite right. The quote is from me but I was not an author of this report. I simply had the honor of presenting it with the Secretary.

Larry

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Department of the Interior

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Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals
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12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov

Microsoft Outlook <MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@doi.net>

From: Microsoft Outlook <MicrosoftExchange329e71ec88ae4615bbc36ab6ce41109e@doi.net>
Sent: Tue Dec 19 2017 11:32:33 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Subject: Undeliverable: Re: Critical Minerals Coverage

Delivery has failed to these recipients or groups:

[Murray Hitzman \(mhitzman@usgs.gov\)](mailto:Murray.Hitzman@mhitzman@usgs.gov)

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Diagnostic information for administrators:

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bh=5AnyYhU0C06Plp0GN943ccP9Ubh01LkoWu/v2ctu33o=;
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jRIhse7qhG0mXIheZUQZDXfaI0jjkauFJLCrDjEcqW6ljf43zoZtJiJnwHps2nFPGrgh
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2YZIiYgbSehZ8A2T0gdd8nq37UTkZJVkhumNWGMg3YICQoTYJb5ymChc02gRQSO3qi5jI
A68Q==
ARC-Authentication-Results: i=1; mx.google.com;
spf=pass (google.com: domain of lmeinert@usgs.gov designates 209.85.218.69 as permitted sender) smtp.mailfrom=lmeinert@usgs.gov
dmarc=pass (p=NONE sp=NONE dis=NONE) header.from=usgs.gov
Return-Path: <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Received: from mail-oi0-f69.google.com (mail-oi0-f69.google.com.
[209.85.218.69]) by mx.google.com with ESMTPS id

dl4si4594666oib.11.2017.12.19.10.32.31 for <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
(version=TLS1_2 cipher=ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256 bits=128/128);
Tue, 19 Dec 2017 10:32:31 -0800 (PST)
Received-SPF: pass (google.com: domain of lmeinert@usgs.gov designates 209.85.218.69 as permitted sender) client-ip=209.85.218.69;
Authentication-Results: mx.google.com;
spf=pass (google.com: domain of lmeinert@usgs.gov designates 209.85.218.69 as permitted sender) smtp.mailfrom=lmeinert@usgs.gov
dmarc=pass (p=NONE sp=NONE dis=NONE) header.from=usgs.gov
Received: by mail-oio-f69.google.com with SMTP id w70so8605759oie.15
for <mhitzman@usgs.gov>; Tue, 19 Dec 2017 10:32:31 -0800 (PST)
X-Received: by 10.157.24.77 with SMTP id t13mr3159126ott.95.1513708350160;
Tue, 19 Dec 2017 10:32:30 -0800 (PST)
X-Received: by 10.157.24.77 with SMTP id t13mr3159074ott.95.1513708348954;
Tue, 19 Dec 2017 10:32:28 -0800 (PST)
MIME-Version: 1.0
Received: by 10.202.4.22 with HTTP; Tue, 19 Dec 2017 10:31:48 -0800 (PST)
In-Reply-To: <CAPa2jiF2PaK01BndNGo5RFXKcXqpBXQUHJidt87oeA-6RTYduQ@mail.gmail.com>
References: <CAGPJrql7kPT-NO=Uu0ZA8Jx7-omsRn3t6X+_wgaYn05aRx45ng@mail.gmail.com>
<CAPa2jiF2PaK01BndNGo5RFXKcXqpBXQUHJidt87oeA-6RTYduQ@mail.gmail.com>
From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Date: Tue, 19 Dec 2017 13:31:48 -0500
Message-ID: <CAMos4u2XGFuu_s7N3-aHPny=YG3J70g4Zzii7uXS=cMwOJrNVg@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Critical Minerals Coverage
To: Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>
CC: Alex Demas <apdemas@usgs.gov>, Andrea Travnicek
<andrea.travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Bill Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, "David
Applegate" <applegate@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, "Thomas
Crafford" <tcrafford@usgs.gov>
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="001a1135140470a7a10560b5b088"
X-FailoverRoute: 1
X-Gm-Spam: 0
X-Gm-Phishy: 0

Nice coverage. The quote attribution in the last sentence is not quite right. The quote is from me but I was not an author of this report. I simply had the honor of presenting it with the Secretary.

Larry

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 1:13 PM, Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Hinson, Alex <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 1:08 PM
Subject: Critical Minerals Coverage
To: Wade, Anne-Berry <abwade@usgs.gov>

[Seattle Times \(AP\): Interior Dept. says US relies on China for critical minerals](#)

Matthew Daly
December 19, 2017

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Interior Department says in a new report that the United States is reliant on China and other nations for the overwhelming majority of critical minerals used by the military and for manufacturing everything from smartphones to wind turbines and cars.

The report released Tuesday by the U.S. Geological Survey says the U.S. relies on foreign sources for a majority of all but two of the 23 minerals identified as critical. The minerals are produced in China, Russia, South Africa, Brazil and other countries.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke called the report troubling and said the reliance of imported minerals, especially by the military, poses a "very real national security risk."

Zinke urged increased U.S. production of platinum, manganese and other critical minerals, especially on federal lands.

###

[Reuters: U.S. sees foreign reliance for 'critical' minerals as security concern](#)

Valerie Volcovici
December 19, 2017

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States needs to encourage domestic production of a handful of minerals critical for the technology and defense industries, and stem reliance on China, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said on Tuesday.

Zinke made the remarks at the Interior Department as he unveiled a report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which detailed the extent to which the United States is dependent upon foreign competitors for its supply of certain minerals.

The report identified 23 out of 88 minerals that are priorities for U.S. national defense and the economy because they are components in products ranging from batteries to military equipment.

The report found that the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and others. In 1954, the U.S. was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of just eight nonfuel mineral commodities.

"We have the minerals here and likely we have enough to provide our needs and be a world trader in them, but we have to go forward and identify where they are at," Zinke told reporters at an Interior Department briefing.

He also blamed previous administrations for allowing foreign competitors like China to dominate mineral production for minerals, such as rare earth elements, used in smart phones, computers and military equipment.

Zinke said the report is likely to shape Interior Department policy-making in 2018, as the agency looks to carry out its "Energy Dominance" strategy, expanding mining and resource extraction on federal lands.

The survey is the first update of a 1973 USGS report that catalogued the production of minerals worldwide. The update was started under the Obama administration in 2013.

Many of the commodities that are covered in the new volume were of minor importance when the original survey was done, since it pre-dated the global electronics boom.

The USGS and Interior Department said the report is meant to be used by national security experts, economists, private companies, the World Bank and resource managers.

It does not offer policy recommendations, but Zinke will rely on the findings as he prioritizes research into certain mineral deposit areas on federal land and plans policies to promote mining.

"We do expect that to lead to policy changes. The USGS is not involved in policy, but I suspect you will see some policy changes," said Larry Meinert, lead author of the report.

Reporting by Valerie Volcovici; editing by Richard Valdmanis and G Crosse

###

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Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

--

A.B. Wade
[USGS](#) Press Officer
703-648-4483 desk
703-317-7871 mobile

--

Larry Meinert
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 913
Reston, VA 20192
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Lmeinert@usgs.gov

Conversation Contents

Quick Call Today?

Attachments:

/6. Quick Call Today?/5.1 Critical Minerals of the United States Q&As.docx
/6. Quick Call Today?/5.2 prof paper 1802 - Meinert presentation.pptx

"Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 15 2017 13:45:26 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
CC:
Subject: Quick Call Today?

Hi Larry --

Do you have time for a quick call this afternoon? Wanted to see if you are available on Monday or Tuesday to help us roll out the critical minerals report. There's a lot of moving pieces, so would be great to connect today.

Many thanks,

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior*

"Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 15 2017 13:57:53 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

Yes to both. Should I call you?

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Lmeinert@usgs.gov

"Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 15 2017 14:03:52 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
CC:
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Wonderful, thanks, Larry! If you could call my cell below, that would be great. When should I look out for the call? I'm free after 4:30.

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(202) 897-7022 cell
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Lmeinert@usgs.gov

"Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 15 2017 14:17:05 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

I will call you at 4:35.

Larry

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:03 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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lmeinert@usgs.gov

"Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 15 2017 15:02:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>
CC: <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Leslie Jones <ljones@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

Attachments:

Critical Minerals of the United States Q&As.docx prof paper 1802 -
Meinert presentation.pptx

Laura,

Good to talk with you just now about the pending rollout of PP1802. Murray and I have gone through the Powerpoint and the Q&As so we are all on the same page. The only thing changed from previous versions is the title page with speaker and date. Attached are the final versions of both the Powerpoint and Q&As. Let us know if you need anything further.

Best regards,

Larry and Murray

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 4:03 PM, Rigas, Laura <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior*

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 3:57 PM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:

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--

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--

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Lmeinert@usgs.gov

"Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 15 2017 15:06:45 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, "Travnicek, Andrea" <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "Newell, Russell" <russell_newell@ios.doi.gov>, "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Leslie Jones <ljones@usgs.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

Many thanks, Larry and Murray. Will keep you posted on the schedule.
My best,
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Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:02 PM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:

Laura,

Good to talk with you just now about the pending rollout of PP1802. Murray and I have gone through the Powerpoint and the Q&As so we are all on the same page. The only thing changed from previous versions is the title page with speaker and date. Attached are the final versions of both the Powerpoint and Q&As. Let us know if you need anything further.

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Communications Director

U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
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lmeinert@usgs.gov

Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 08:38:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

Laura,

Any information on 1802? I called your cell but no answer and no voice mail.

Larry

On: 15 December 2017 17:06, "Rigas, Laura" <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Many thanks, Larry and Murray. Will keep you posted on the schedule.
My best,
L

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
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@Interior

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Reston, VA 20192
703-648-6100
Lmeinert@usgs.gov

"Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>

From: "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 08:56:04 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

Hi Larry,

Any word on the time/date of the rollout? SPN needs 3 hours advance notice to get it ready to post. Also, I have the printed copy that Murray requested for the rollout itself. I can bring that over to you, let me know...

Leslie

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:02 PM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:

Laura,

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--

~~~~~  
Leslie W. Jones  
Science Publishing Network Chief and  
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing  
U.S. Geological Survey  
MS 119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-4354 FAX: 703-648-4466  
[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)  
~~~~~

Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>

From: Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 09:06:01 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

Not today. Tentatively tomorrow at noon. I am in dc today and tomorrow. Need to find a way to get the book to me or DOI.

Larry

On: 18 December 2017 10:56, "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov> wrote:
Hi Larry,

Any word on the time/date of the rollout? SPN needs 3 hours advance notice to get it ready to post. Also, I have the printed copy that Murray requested for the rollout itself. I can bring that over to you, let me know...

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Larry and Murray

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Wonderful, thanks, Larry! If you could call my cell below, that would be great. When should I look out for the call? I'm free after 4:30.

*Laura Keehner Rigas
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(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

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Larry

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[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](https://www.usgs.gov/locations/national-center), MS 913
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Leslie W. Jones  
Science Publishing Network Chief and  
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing  
U.S. Geological Survey  
MS 119 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

~~~~~  
"Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>

From: "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 18 2017 09:54:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick Call Today?

AB Wade has it and will bring it with her to the rollout for you.

Leslie

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 11:06 AM, Lawrence Meinert <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:

Not today. Tentatively tomorrow at noon. I am in dc today and tomorrow. Need to find a way to get the book to me or DOI.

Larry

On: 18 December 2017 10:56, "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov> wrote:
Hi Larry,

Any word on the time/date of the rollout? SPN needs 3 hours advance notice to get it ready to post. Also, I have the printed copy that Murray requested for the rollout itself. I can bring that over to you, let me know...

Leslie

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:02 PM, Meinert, Lawrence <lmeinert@usgs.gov> wrote:
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**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:22:00 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Lawrence Meinert <[lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:lmeinert@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Quick Call Today?

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**From:** "Meinert, Lawrence" <[Lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:Lmeinert@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:24:49 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Quick Call Today?

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**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:26:12 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Meinert, Lawrence" <[lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:lmeinert@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Quick Call Today?

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**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:30:15 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Quick Call Today?

Formerly, there was a pre-brief half an hour prior to the briefing. Is that still the case? The invite says 9:30 for the briefing. What time to I need to be at DOI?

Larry

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:26 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](#), MS 913  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-6100  
[Lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:Lmeinert@usgs.gov)

--

Larry Meinert  
Acting Deputy Associate Director - Energy & Minerals  
U.S. Geological Survey  
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 913  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-6100  
[Lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:Lmeinert@usgs.gov)

**Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>**

---

**From:** Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:43:10 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Meinert, Lawrence" <[lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:lmeinert@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Quick Call Today?

Does 5pm work today over the phone? For the prebrief? I would imagine you would want to arrive around 9. Thx!

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

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Any information on 1802? I called your cell but no  
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Larry

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On: 15 December 2017 17:06, "Rigas, Laura"

<[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Many thanks, Larry and Murray. Will keep you posted on  
the schedule.

My best,

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is the title page with speaker and date. Attached are the final versions of both the Powerpoint and Q&As. Let us know if you need anything further.

Best regards,

Larry and Murray

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Yes to both. Should I call you?

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**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:44:08 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
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**From:** Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Mon Dec 18 2017 10:46:19 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Lawrence Meinert <[lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:lmeinert@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Quick Call Today?

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# Conversation Contents

Fwd: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

**"Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>**

---

**From:** "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 15 2017 13:44:37 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

fyi - you will be carrying water on this Monday - Tuesday. you can call me at 202-706-2821  
----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:43 PM  
**Subject:** DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment  
**To:** "A.B. Wade" <abwade@usgs.gov>, Leslie W Jones <ljones@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Walter Guidroz <wguidroz@usgs.gov>, Sarah Ryker <sryker@usgs.gov>, David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>, Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>, David Houseknecht <dhouse@usgs.gov>, "Lukas, William" <wlukas@usgs.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <bhildebrandt@usgs.gov>, Catherine Puckett <catherine\_puckett@usgs.gov>  
**Cc:** William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

All,

Just got off the phone with Andrea Travnicek:

## Critical Minerals

They still don't know if the President will sign EO on Tuesday but are working that issue. DOI Comms has asked if USGS would be ready to release the minerals report on Monday whether or not the

Since you've been waiting for a year, I went out on a limb and said yes. I let Andrea know that Murray would be in Ireland but that Larry was available.

## NPRA Assessment

Target release pushed back to Friday, Dec. 22nd

Bill W and I are to brief the Secretary at 10am on Monday (the Secretary is also going to raise a separate sensitive matter, so just Bill and I invited); they would, however, like to have Dave Houseknecht in the building and available should the Secretary pursue specific questions (Dave -- I'll figure out how close in the building you can be). We can use 3-4 page Powerpoint with disclaimer on the sheets if we like (sensitive, pre-release, not to be shared, etc.).

DOI wants a joint press release announcing both the USGS and BOEM assessments, so no



separate USGS news release.

They want to be sure that libraries don't receive hard copies of the fact sheet ahead of the release.

More as I learn it...

Dave

-----  
David Applegate, Ph.D.  
Associate Director for Natural Hazards  
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director  
U.S. Geological Survey  
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#) MS 111, Reston VA 20192  
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax  
[applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)

--

Murray W. Hitzman  
U. S. Geological Survey  
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals  
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102  
Reston, VA. 20192  
703-648-4576

---

**Anne-Berry Wade <[abwade@usgs.gov](mailto:abwade@usgs.gov)>**

**From:** Anne-Berry Wade <[abwade@usgs.gov](mailto:abwade@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 15 2017 15:05:11 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Lawrence Meinert <[lmeinert@usgs.gov](mailto:lmeinert@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment

Leslie (SPN) confirms awareness for posting 1802.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jones, Leslie <[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)>  
Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:58 PM  
Subject: Re: DOI info on critical minerals and NPRA assessment  
To: Applegate, David <[applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)>  
CC: A.B. Wade <[abwade@usgs.gov](mailto:abwade@usgs.gov)>, Murray Hitzman <[mhitzman@usgs.gov](mailto:mhitzman@usgs.gov)>, Joanne Taylor <[jctaylor@usgs.gov](mailto:jctaylor@usgs.gov)>, Judy Nowakowski <[jnowakowski@usgs.gov](mailto:jnowakowski@usgs.gov)>, Walter Guidroz <[wguidroz@usgs.gov](mailto:wguidroz@usgs.gov)>, Sarah Ryker <[sryker@usgs.gov](mailto:sryker@usgs.gov)>, David Diamond <[dbdiamond@usgs.gov](mailto:dbdiamond@usgs.gov)>, Thomas Crafford <[tcrafford@usgs.gov](mailto:tcrafford@usgs.gov)>, David Houseknecht <[dhouse@usgs.gov](mailto:dhouse@usgs.gov)>, Lukas, William <[wlukas@usgs.gov](mailto:wlukas@usgs.gov)>, Betsy Hildebrandt <[bhildebrandt@usgs.gov](mailto:bhildebrandt@usgs.gov)>, Catherine Puckett <[catherine\\_puckett@usgs.gov](mailto:catherine_puckett@usgs.gov)>, William Werkheiser <[whwerkhe@usgs.gov](mailto:whwerkhe@usgs.gov)>

We would need about 3 hours notice to get all the release dates changed and check 508, but we are otherwise ready to go with PP1802. Please include Reston PSC Chief Katharine Schindler ([kschindl@usgs.gov](mailto:kschindl@usgs.gov)) on any email that establishes a release time on Monday.

Thanks,

Leslie

On Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 2:43 PM, Applegate, David <[applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)> wrote:

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~~~~~  
Leslie W. Jones
Science Publishing Network Chief and
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey

MS 119 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-4354 FAX: 703-648-4466
ljones@usgs.gov

~~~~~

--

A.B. Wade  
[USGS](#) Press Officer  
703-648-4483 desk  
703-317-7871 mobile

## Conversation Contents

**Fwd: USGS Qs and As: Critical Minerals Report (Internal-Only Document)**

**Attachments:**

/8. Fwd: USGS Qs and As: Critical Minerals Report (Internal-Only Document/1.1 Critical Minerals of the United States Q&As—mh.docx

**"Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>**

---

**From:** "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 15 2017 14:39:03 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Meinert, Lawrence" <lmeinert@usgs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: USGS Qs and As: Critical Minerals Report (Internal-Only Document)  
**Attachments:** Critical Minerals of the United States Q&As—mh.docx

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Puckett, Catherine** <cpuckett@usgs.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 4:45 PM  
**Subject:** USGS Qs and As: Critical Minerals Report (Internal-Only Document)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Russell Johnson <russell\_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, Murray Hitzman <mhitzman@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, William Lukas <wlukas@usgs.gov>, Anne-Berry Wade <abwade@usgs.gov>, Betsy Hildebrandt <bhildebrandt@usgs.gov>

Hello: Per request from Laura Rigas, attached is USGS's **internal** Q's and A's document for the forthcoming report. Murray Hitzman has given it the science stamp of approval.

**Andrea**, Laura said you don't need to review this unless desired, but we always welcome your feedback. If there are any additional edits or requests for adds to this from ASWS or DOI Comms, please let me know.

Thank you, Catherine (Acting for AB Wade)

---

 Catherine Puckett  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
USGS Office of Communications  
352-377-2469 (O) 352-278-0165 (cell)  
[cpuckett@usgs.gov](mailto:cpuckett@usgs.gov)

--

Murray W. Hitzman  
U. S. Geological Survey  
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals  
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102  
Reston, VA. 20192  
703-648-4576

**Label: "Admin./\*\*\*\*BETSY\*\*\*\*/FOIA 2018-00114"**

**Created by:ljones@usgs.gov**

Total Messages in label:17 (4 conversations)

Created: 06-11-2018 at 09:19 AM

# Conversation Contents

## Updated Procedures for Release of Energy and Mineral Assessments

### Attachments:

/1. Updated Procedures for Release of Energy and Mineral Assessments/1.1 Steps for Assessment Fact Sheet Review and Release Revised 2017 final OSQI.docx

**"Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>**

---

**From:** "Jones, Leslie" <ljones@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 15 2017 07:53:19 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** COLT <GS-DO-OCAP-COLT@usgs.gov>  
**BCC:** Leslie Jones <ljones@usgs.gov>  
**Subject:** Updated Procedures for Release of Energy and Mineral Assessments  
**Attachments:** Steps for Assessment Fact Sheet Review and Release Revised 2017 final OSQI.docx

Here is OSQI's revised language that has been added to the procedure document for release of energy and mineral assessments. The part in yellow will be added to SM 502.5 Safeguarding Unpublished Scientific Information.

The entire updated procedure document is attached.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Werkheiser, William <[whwerkhe@usgs.gov](mailto:whwerkhe@usgs.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 1:19 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Update on Procedures for Energy (and Minerals) Program Document on Assessment Releases  
**To:** "Robinson, Craig" <[crrobinson@usgs.gov](mailto:crrobinson@usgs.gov)>  
**Cc:** David Applegate <[applegate@usgs.gov](mailto:applegate@usgs.gov)>, "Nowakowski, Judy" <[jnowakowski@usgs.gov](mailto:jnowakowski@usgs.gov)>, Joanne Taylor <[jtaylor@usgs.gov](mailto:jtaylor@usgs.gov)>, Margo Harris <[mrharris@usgs.gov](mailto:mrharris@usgs.gov)>, Murray Hitzman <[mhitzman@usgs.gov](mailto:mhitzman@usgs.gov)>, Leslie Jones <[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)>, Walter Guidroz <[wguidroz@usgs.gov](mailto:wguidroz@usgs.gov)>, "Diamond, David" <[dbdiamond@usgs.gov](mailto:dbdiamond@usgs.gov)>

Thanks Craig. this looks good.-Bill

On Wed, Dec 13, 2017 at 12:00 PM, Robinson, Craig <[crrobinson@usgs.gov](mailto:crrobinson@usgs.gov)> wrote:  
Bill, Dave, Judy and Joanne,

To complete the assignment from the discussion last week, attached is the version (thanks to OCAP for the copy edits) of the procedural document on assessment releases agreed to by the Energy Resources Program, OCAP and OSQI. Here is the pertinent section regarding release:

7. The assessment Fact Sheet is released with approval from the Science Center and in coordination with the Energy Resources Program Coordinator. To permit the Department of the Interior (DOI) to be able to answer questions upon release of the Fact Sheet, the USGS should offer a briefing that includes the assessment numbers to senior Departmental officials who anticipate receiving questions. The briefing is for notification purposes only, and public release shall occur immediately at the conclusion of the briefing. Sufficient steps should be taken at the notification briefing to identify nonpublic information and ensure that DOI employees receiving the briefing understand that such information must not be prematurely released or misused. All U.S. Government employees are subject to misuse of position restrictions including 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702 - Use of public office for private gain and 5 C.F.R. § 2635.703 - Use of nonpublic information.

My understanding is that the same procedures will be incorporated into minerals assessments.

Since we are updating **Fundamental Science Practices** in the Survey Manual, OSQI will make sure that the policy is clarified where needed. I am available if you have any questions.

Craig

Craig R. Robinson, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Science Quality and Integrity (OSQI)  
U.S. Geological Survey, MS 911, Reston, VA 20192, USA  
703-648-6601  
[crrobinson@usgs.gov](mailto:crrobinson@usgs.gov)

--

William H. Werkheiser  
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#), MS 100  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-7411

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~~~~~  
Leslie W. Jones
Science Publishing Network Chief and
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey
MS 119 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-4354 FAX: 703-648-4466
ljones@usgs.gov
~~~~~



# Conversation Contents

**Fwd: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review**

**Attachments:**

/3. Fwd: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review/1.1 Steps for Assessment Fact Sheet Review and Release Revised 2017 final.docx

**"Wilkinson, Carol" <cwilkinson@usgs.gov>**

---

**From:** "Wilkinson, Carol" <cwilkinson@usgs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 12 2017 10:41:06 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** ljones <ljones@usgs.gov>  
**CC:** Tania Larson <tlarson@usgs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review  
**Attachments:** Steps for Assessment Fact Sheet Review and Release Revised 2017 final.docx

Hi Leslie,  
FYI ... I received the attached process document from Chris today. Let us know if you have any concerns.  
Best,  
Carol

Carol Wilkinson, Denver PSC  
OCAP, Science Publishing Network  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 902, Bldg. 25  
Denver, CO 80225-0046  
[cwilkinson@usgs.gov](mailto:cwilkinson@usgs.gov)  
Phone: 303-236-5371  
Fax: 303-236-6287

**Office hours:** Daily 9am–5:30pm

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Schenk, Christopher** <[schenk@usgs.gov](mailto:schenk@usgs.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 9:40 AM  
Subject: Fwd: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review  
To: "Wilkinson, Carol" <[cwilkinson@usgs.gov](mailto:cwilkinson@usgs.gov)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ferderer, David** <[dferdere@usgs.gov](mailto:dferdere@usgs.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 9:25 AM  
Subject: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review

To: GS-G-CR Energy Emeritus <[gs-g-cr\\_energy\\_emeritus@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-g-cr_energy_emeritus@usgs.gov)>, GS-G-CR Energy  
Federal Employees <[gs-g-cr\\_energy\\_federal\\_employees@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-g-cr_energy_federal_employees@usgs.gov)>  
Cc: David Ferderer <[dferdere@usgs.gov](mailto:dferdere@usgs.gov)>

To all Assessment Authors from Walter Guidroz,

Please see attached document, which provides clarity and a process regarding assessment releases and the timing of when data and results are made available to the public. This process is to protect our assessment results from inadvertent, unanticipated, or early release. This guidance is newly prepared as a collaborative effort between OSQI, Congressional Affairs, the Office of Communications, and the EM Mission Area (and, by extension, ERP). Please share this information with relevant staff in your respective Science Centers for awareness. Please let me know if there are any questions or you'd like to discuss further. GS-G.

Thanks

Dave

--

David A. Ferderer

Director  
Central Energy Resources Science Center (CERSC)  
P.O. Box 25046 MS 939 DFC  
ph: 303-236-7775  
cell: 303-818-4678

**"Jones, Leslie" <[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)>**

---

**From:** "Jones, Leslie" <[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 12 2017 11:23:11 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "Wilkinson, Carol" <[cwilkinson@usgs.gov](mailto:cwilkinson@usgs.gov)>  
**CC:** Tania Larson <[tlarson@usgs.gov](mailto:tlarson@usgs.gov)>  
**BCC:** Leslie Jones <[ljones@usgs.gov](mailto:ljones@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review

Well I have huge concerns which I expressed to Bill Werkheiser, Dave Applegate, Judy Nowakowski, and others but I was overruled. I was involved in the update of this document, so glad to see it has been sent out to you through the center. I told them I needed this change in print, so this is it.

You no longer have to wait for word from me about timing, we must follow this guidance now...

Thanks,

Leslie

On Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 12:41 PM, Wilkinson, Carol <[cwilkinson@usgs.gov](mailto:cwilkinson@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Hi Leslie,

FYI ... I received the attached process document from Chris today. Let us know if you have

any concerns.

Best,  
Carol

Carol Wilkinson, Denver PSC  
OCAP, Science Publishing Network  
U.S. Geological Survey  
P.O. Box 25046, MS 902, Bldg. 25  
Denver, CO 80225-0046  
[cwilkinson@usgs.gov](mailto:cwilkinson@usgs.gov)  
Phone: 303-236-5371  
Fax: 303-236-6287

**Office hours:** Daily 9am–5:30pm

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Schenk, Christopher** <[schenk@usgs.gov](mailto:schenk@usgs.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 9:40 AM  
Subject: Fwd: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review  
To: "Wilkinson, Carol" <[cwilkinson@usgs.gov](mailto:cwilkinson@usgs.gov)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ferderer, David** <[dferdere@usgs.gov](mailto:dferdere@usgs.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Dec 12, 2017 at 9:25 AM  
Subject: New Process for Assessment Fact Sheet Review  
To: GS-G-CR Energy Emeritus <[gs-g-cr\\_energy\\_emeritus@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-g-cr_energy_emeritus@usgs.gov)>, GS-G-CR Energy  
Federal Employees <[gs-g-cr\\_energy\\_federal\\_employees@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-g-cr_energy_federal_employees@usgs.gov)>  
Cc: David Ferderer <[dferdere@usgs.gov](mailto:dferdere@usgs.gov)>

To all Assessment Authors from Walter Guidroz,

Please see attached document, which provides clarity and a process regarding assessment releases and the timing of when data and results are made available to the public. This process is to protect our assessment results from inadvertent, unanticipated, or early release. This guidance is newly prepared as a collaborative effort between OSQI, Congressional Affairs, the Office of Communications, and the EM Mission Area (and, by extension, ERP). Please share this information with relevant staff in your respective Science Centers for awareness. Please let me know if there are any questions or you'd like to discuss further. GS-G.

Thanks

Dave

--

David A. Ferderer

Director  
Central Energy Resources Science Center (CERSC)  
P.O. Box 25046 MS 939 DFC  
ph: 303-236-7775  
cell: 303-818-4678

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Leslie W. Jones
Science Publishing Network Chief and
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey
MS 119 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-4354 FAX: 703-648-4466
ljones@usgs.gov

~~~~~

**From:** [May, Brian](#)  
**To:** [Relat, Hubbel](#); [Cearley, Judy](#)  
**Cc:** [Lacey Smethers](#); [Cafaro, Cindy](#)  
**Subject:** USGS FOIA 2018-00114: Awareness Review Complete  
**Date:** Monday, March 11, 2019 8:31:01 AM

---

You're welcome! We'll pull out pages 20-23 as Non-Responsive and proceed with our release/closing the request. Have a great week Hubbel.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good Morning Judy,

FYI....

Sincerely,

brian  
Brian A. May  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer  
FOIA Public Liaison  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior  
5522 Research Park Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21228  
(443) 498-5521 (office)  
[\(443\) 750-2620 \(work cell\)](#)  
(443) 498-5510 (fax)  
[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)

On Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 8:29 AM Relat, Hubbel <[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Thanks for the follow up and clarification on both pages Brian.

On Fri, Mar 8, 2019 at 4:03 PM Relat, Hubbel <[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Sorry that I missed you. I caught up with Jennifer in the meantime and talked through my questions. Can we discuss on Monday to finalize? Deliberative material on pgs 7 and 35. Thanks! Have a great weekend!

On Fri, Mar 8, 2019 at 7:49 AM May, Brian <[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)> wrote:  
Thank you Hubbel, standing by. I'm working on some management issues at the moment, I'll be available around 9:30-10 AM. I'm signing out today at 2:30 PM Eastern.

brian  
Brian A. May  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer

FOIA Public Liaison  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior  
[5522 Research Park Drive](#)  
[Baltimore, MD 21228](#)  
(443) 498-5521 (office)  
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)  
(443) 498-5510 (fax)  
[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)

On Fri, Mar 8, 2019 at 7:38 AM Relat, Hubbel <[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Brian,

I am planning to reach out to you today on this to finish it up. Thanks for the email.  
Standby please.

On Fri, Mar 8, 2019 at 7:04 AM May, Brian <[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Good Morning Hubbel,

Have you had a chance to review my scope/responsiveness analysis for USGS FOIA request, 2018-00114? If not, when do you anticipate that we should be able to close this request? If you have reviewed the information that I provided, are we cleared to close this request?

Thank you for your time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good Morning Cindy,

Does the three workday timeline apply in the Awareness Review process when we are working through matters with a PAS, NC-SES, Schedule C employee or does the timeline change and we need to wait for an affirmative response from the individual(s)? If we need to wait for an affirmative response, can the Department add this additional guidance to the Awareness Policy for clarity?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

brian  
Brian A. May  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer  
FOIA Public Liaison  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior  
[5522 Research Park Drive](#)  
[Baltimore, MD 21228](#)  
(443) 498-5521 (office)  
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)  
(443) 498-5510 (fax)  
[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)

On Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 8:03 AM May, Brian <[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Great, thank you Hubbel.

Sincerely,

brian  
Brian A. May  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer  
FOIA Public Liaison  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior  
[5522 Research Park Drive](#)  
[Baltimore, MD 21228](#)  
(443) 498-5521 (office)  
[\(443\) 750-2620 \(work cell\)](#)  
(443) 498-5510 (fax)  
[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)

On Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 8:01 AM Relat, Hubbel <[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for the follow up and further clarification Brian. I will get back to you with any further feedback after taking this new info into account and do believe the end of the week is doable.

Hubbel

On Sun, Mar 3, 2019 at 3:26 PM May, Brian <[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)> wrote:  
Good Afternoon Hubbel,

Hope that you are doing well today. I sent my scope analysis and an explanation about the responsiveness of the records to Cindy on 2/20/19. I spoke with Cindy on 2/27/19 and she suggested that I prepare a spreadsheet (attached) listing the scope of the request and the breakdown of pages that respond to the request. I think that the 89 pages of the records respond to the second portion of the original request and the clarification that we received on 4/17/18. I do not believe that pages 20-23 are responsive and we can remove them.

I'm sharing the email that I sent to Cindy for your reference because I provided hyperlinks to published articles on this matter and the relevant request documents. Hopefully the attached spreadsheet provides the explanation that you need to clear the Awareness Review step and so that we can release the records and close the request. As I stated in my email to Cindy, I'll ensure that the Awareness Review packages capture all relevant scope information prior to sending it forward, I'm sorry for not sending forward a complete package and for causing confusion and this delay.

If possible, I'd like to respond and close the request by the end of the week. Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to call my work cell if you would like to discuss further.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good Afternoon Cindy,

FYI. I didn't hear back from you regarding who I should send this to (you or Hubbel), so I'm sending to both to hopefully move this request along.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good Afternoon Judy,

FYI....

Sincerely,

brian  
Brian A. May  
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer  
FOIA Public Liaison  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior  
[5522 Research Park Drive](#)  
[Baltimore, MD 21228](#)  
(443) 498-5521 (office)  
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)  
(443) 498-5510 (fax)  
[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **May, Brian** <[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)>  
Date: Wed, Feb 20, 2019 at 2:10 PM  
Subject: USGS FOIA 2018-00114: Brian's Scope Analysis, Explanation of Responsiveness of Records  
To: Cafaro, Cindy <[cindy\\_cafaro@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cindy_cafaro@ios.doi.gov)>

Good Afternoon Cindy,

Hopefully the attached provides the background and analysis that you requested, I've also attached the records with electronic sticky notes explaining the responsiveness on each email. I read through all of the emails between my staff and Mr. Chris Saeger, Western Values Project, and identified the Clarifications and Amendments that he provided to us. I think that the records meet the clarification that he provided to us on April 17, 2018 (see highlighted text in the attached). Therefore, after reviewing the emails between Mr. Saeger and my staff, I think that the attached records do respond to 2018-00114. Additionally, I think that we have met the Rule of 3 for some of the records because the records are also responsive to USGS and possibly OS requests. Finally, the most of the records respond to USGS-2018-00070, Mr. Evan Halpert's (LA Times) request. If the determination is made that the records do not respond to 2018-00114, then I think that we can release them to Mr. Halper and provide copies to the other requester's who are listed in the attachment. I understand that our omission of the clarifications and amendment led may have caused confusion about the responsiveness at the Department-level, I accept responsibility for not providing the attached emails. We'll ensure that we provide an accurate background of a request's



scope in future Awareness Review packages. Additionally, I will ensure that we clean up our clarifications/amendments in the future to capture the nature of the clarification/amendment into one document (preferably one email).

I think that the entire circumstances around the resignation of Murray Hitzman, the retirement of Larry Meinert, and the nature of the critical minerals assessments meet the exception listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2)(D)(ii)(I), listed below:

**(ii)(I) that because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records;**

The attached document lists the 10 requests that we've already received and processed into the matter, this request, and the two OS FOIA requests that they have. This matter was a contentious issue that led to published articles news outlets, here is a sampling that I found just by searching for "Murray Hitzman resignation" in Google:

Science: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/02/departures-usgs-scientists-highlight-trump-era-tensions-surrounding-data>

The Hill: <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/374917-interior-dept-scientist-resigns-over-fears-of-lacking-scientific>

MotherJones: <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/02/usgs-interior-zinke-alaska/>

Washington Post: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/02/21/two-scientists-have-left-the-interior-department-after-zinke-demanded-confidential-energy-data/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.4421e8f3a5fb](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/02/21/two-scientists-have-left-the-interior-department-after-zinke-demanded-confidential-energy-data/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4421e8f3a5fb)

Murray's resignation letter available online: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4380759-Hitzman-Letter-redacted2.html>

Earth & Space News: <https://eos.org/articles/senior-usgs-official-quits-over-request-for-advance-alaska-data>

Feel free to call me on my work cell if you would like to discuss this request or my analysis with me further. I don't know where I'll work tomorrow, either home or the office, it will depend on how much freezing rain we receive this afternoon or this evening. Hopefully we can resolve this request by end of this week or the middle of next week.

Thank you for your time.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good Afternoon Dale and Judy,

FYI.....

Sincerely,

brian  
Brian A. May

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer  
FOIA Public Liaison  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior  
[5522 Research Park Drive](#)  
[Baltimore, MD 21228](#)  
(443) 498-5521 (office)  
(443) 750-2620 (work cell)  
(443) 498-5510 (fax)  
[bmay@usgs.gov](mailto:bmay@usgs.gov)

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Hubbel Relat  
Counselor to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)

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Hubbel Relat  
Counselor to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)

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Hubbel Relat  
Counselor to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)

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Hubbel Relat  
Counselor to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
[hubbel\\_relat@ios.doi.gov](mailto:hubbel_relat@ios.doi.gov)

## USGS FOIA REQUEST 2018-00114

### Scope Analysis

| Original Scope                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Clarification 1 (4/17/18)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Amended Request (4/26/18)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Clarification 2 (10/11/18) after we provided records released to Mr. Federman (requests 2018-00062 and 2018-00065)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <p>1. request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting Director William Werkheiser</li> <li>• Deputy Acting Director David Applegate</li> <li>• Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski</li> <li>• Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt</li> <li>• MmTay Ritzman</li> <li>• Lany Meinert</li> </ul> <p>2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary Ryan Zinke</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt</li> <li>• Todd Willens</li> <li>• Steven Howke</li> <li>• Downey Magallanes</li> <li>• Andrea Travnicek</li> <li>• Tim Petty</li> <li>• Austin Ewell</li> <li>• Ryan Nichols</li> </ul> | <p><b>seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement</b>, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?</p> | <p>1) The topic of this FOIA, for both portions of the request, is defined as: all communications about the resignation of Murray Hitzman and the retirement of Larry Meinert.</p> <p>2) USGS can exclude all CCed and BCCed emails.</p> <p>3) USGS can exclude all email attachments.</p> <p>4) For the second portion of the request - all communications between USGS officials and the list of Department of Interior officials - I'd like USGS to limit their search to emails sent from December 7th to December 27th, 2017.</p> | <p>Do not believe this satisfies request, especially the second portion of the request: "request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017 ..."</p> <p>That being said, to try to make this search easier, willing to significantly narrow the first portion of the request by inserting a key word search (in bold) and removing Werkheiser from the list of targeted accounts (however, please keep him in the second portion of the request, for all correspondence between USGS and DOI officials). Hopefully, this will help reduce search time.</p> <p>Request access to and copies of all correspondence that includes the word "Werkheiser," including by not limited to letters, text, emails, and faxes, to or from the following USGS officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>A</del>Acting Director William Werkheiser</li> <li>• <del>D</del>eputy Acting Director David Applegate</li> <li>• <del>C</del>hief of Staff Judy Nowakowski</li> <li>• <del>A</del>ssociate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrand</li> <li>• <del>M</del>urray Hitzman</li> <li>• <del>E</del>arry Meinert</li> </ul> |

Brian believes that following pages are responsive to the second portion of the request and specifically fall under the Clarification that USGS received on 4/17/19

Pages 1-2  
 Pages 4-5  
 Pages 6-7  
 Pages 9-10  
 Page 11  
 Pages 12-13  
 Pages 14-15  
 Pages 16-17  
 Pages 18-19

Page 24  
Pages 25-26  
Pages 28-29  
Pages 30-37  
Pages 38-42  
Pages 43-79  
Pages 80-83  
Pages 84-85  
Pages 87-88  
Pages 89-92

Pages identified above are also responsive to USGS 2018-00070 (LA Times, already closed); 2018-00062 (Federman); or 2018-00063 (Federman)

**Only pages non-responsive to this request are Pages 20-23.**

**From:** Chris Saeger  
**To:** [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 April, 2018 15:03:45  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Dear Mr. Pogány,

I do seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?

Thanks for your assistance!

Chris

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:25 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <[foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Saeger:

On March 16, 2018, the USGS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office received your FOIA request, dated March 16, 2018, and assigned it control number **USGS-2018-00114**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request. You request the following information:

1. Request for access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent De Vito
- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

The FOIA requires that requests describe the records sought with sufficient detail to allow an agency employee familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Your request does not adequately describe the records sought, therefore, we are unable to process it at this time. If you wish to pursue your request, please let us know if there is a specific topic that you are seeking information about (e.g. the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement)? Can we limit our search to only records sent directly from or directly to the listed individuals and exclude any emails where someone may have been Courtesy Copied? Can we exclude attachments? If not, the attachments could balloon the volume of potentially responsive records and move this request into the Exceptional/Voluminous processing track and could take years to process.

According to our regulations, if we do not receive your written response clarifying what records you are looking for **within 20 workdays** from the date of this letter, **April 18, 2018**, we will presume that you are no longer interested in pursuing your request, we will not be able to comply with your request, and we will close our file on it. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.5\(d\)](#).

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact me by email at [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov) or by phone at (303) 236-2737.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Geological Survey.

V/μ

*Andreas*

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: [gpogany@usgs.gov](mailto:gpogany@usgs.gov)

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704C East 13th Street, Suite 568  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
406-438-1918

FOIA Officer  
United States Geological Survey  
5522 Research Park Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21228  
E-mail: foia@usgs.gov

March 16, 2018

## **FOIA REQUEST**

Dear Records Request Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert

I also request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent DeVito

- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

"All correspondence" should include, but not be limited to, copies of digital and hardcopy information sent by, sent to, carbon copying ("CC"), or blind carbon copying ("BCC") any of these individuals during this time period.

### **Fee Waiver Request**

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).<sup>1</sup>

Western Values Project requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."<sup>2</sup> The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Western Values Project does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Western Values Project's financial interest. Western Values Project's mission is to give a voice to Western values in the national conversation about resource development and public lands conservation, a space too often dominated by industry lobbyists and their government allies. Western Values Project will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Western Values Project will also make materials it gathers available on our public website <http://www.westernvaluesproject.org/>.

Accordingly, Western Values Project qualifies for a fee waiver.

### **Conclusion**

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at [csaegeer@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:csaegeer@westernvaluesproject.org).

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological Seepage Situation v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

<sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

If you have questions or need additional information from me, please feel free to call me at (406) 438-1918.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. If any documents are withheld based on the Agency's interpretation of any exemption, we request that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this *Vaughn* index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity as to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chris Saeger  
Executive Director  
Western Values Project

**From:** Brad Hennessy  
**To:** [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification  
**Date:** Thursday, 26 April, 2018 15:48:48  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Mr. Pogány,

Following our conversation about narrowing of the scope of this FOIA, I'd like to add the additional limitations to our request:

- 1) The topic of this FOIA, for both portions of the request, is defined as: all communications about the resignation of Murray Hitzman and the retirement of Larry Meinert.
- 2) USGS can exclude all CCed and BCCed emails.
- 3) USGS can exclude all email attachments.
- 4) For the second portion of the request - all communications between USGS officials and the list of Department of Interior officials - I'd like USGS to limit their search to emails sent from December 7th to December 27th, 2017.

Thanks for your time!

Brad

On Thu, Apr 26, 2018 at 5:05 PM, Brad Hennessy <[brad@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:brad@westernvaluesproject.org)> wrote:  
Mr. Pogány,

Apologies, I was a couple of minutes late, but I'm on this teleconference call now.

Brad

On Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 5:18 PM, Brad Hennessy <[brad@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:brad@westernvaluesproject.org)> wrote:

Mr. Pogány,

Excellent! How about a call at 3 pm? My number here is (406) 924-9491.

Thanks!

Brad

On Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 4:52 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <[foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your email. Those times work on my end.

Brad: Please let me know what time you would like me to schedule the call for.

Thank you.

*V/r*

*Andreas*

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: [gpogany@usgs.gov](mailto:gpogany@usgs.gov)



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or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete all copies of the message.

**From:** Chris Saeger <[csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 April, 2018 14:13  
**To:** [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov); Brad Hennessy <[brad@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:brad@westernvaluesproject.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification

Mr. Pogány,

I'm actually not available the rest of the week, but I've authorized my associate Brad to talk with you about this email (he's copied on this email) -- he said he's free to talk anytime tomorrow and Friday after 12:30. Would those times work for you?

Chris

On Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 1:50 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <[foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Saeger,

Please send me a phone # and a day and time that would be convenient for you to have telephone call with you in reference to the above FOIA request on file with us.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to talking to you soon.

*V/r*

*Andreas*

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány  
Government Information Specialist  
Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA  
U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey  
Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53  
Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0046  
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**From:** Chris Saeger <[csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org](mailto:csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 April, 2018 15:03  
**To:** [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: FOIA: USGS-2018-00114: Request for Clarification

Dear Mr. Pogány,

I do seek communications related to the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement, and I am interested in pursuing this request. Can which of the outlined requested are causing the increased processing track, number 1 or 2, and then I'll think about potentially narrowing it down? Or is it both of the requests that are too voluminous?

Thanks for your assistance!

Chris

On Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 12:25 PM, USGS-Freedom of Information Act <[foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Saeger:

On March 16, 2018, the USGS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office received your FOIA request, dated March 16, 2018, and assigned it control number **USGS-2018-00114**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request. You request the following information:

1. Request for access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman



- Larry Meinert

2. Request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017:

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
- Todd Willens
- Steven Howke
- Downey Magallanes
- Andrea Travnicek
- Tim Petty
- Austin Ewell
- Ryan Nichols
- Vincent De Vito
- Caroline Boulton
- Leila Getto
- Joe Balash
- Heather Swift
- Laura Rigas

The FOIA requires that requests describe the records sought with sufficient detail to allow an agency employee familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. Your request does not adequately describe the records sought, therefore, we are unable to process it at this time. If you wish to pursue your request, please let us know if there is a specific topic that you are seeking information about (e.g. the issue that led to Murray Hitzman's resignation and Larry Meinert's retirement)? Can we limit our search to only records sent directly from or directly to the listed individuals and exclude any emails where someone may have been Courtesy Copied? Can we exclude attachments? If not, the

attachments could balloon the volume of potentially responsive records and move this request into the Exceptional/Voluminous processing track and could take years to process.

According to our regulations, if we do not receive your written response clarifying what records you are looking for **within 20 workdays** from the date of this letter, **April 18, 2018**, we will presume that you are no longer interested in pursuing your request, we will not be able to comply with your request, and we will close our file on it. See [43 C.F.R. § 2.5\(d\)](#).

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact me by email at [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov) or by phone at (303) 236-2737.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Geological Survey.

V/r

Andreas

//SIGNED//

Georg-Andreas Pogány

Government Information Specialist

Freedom of Information Act Office / FOIA

U.S. Department of the Interior / U.S. Geological Survey

Denver Federal Center, Bldg 53

Box 25046, Mail Stop 801A

Denver, Colorado 80225-0046

Ph: 303-236-2737

Email: [gpogany@usgs.gov](mailto:gpogany@usgs.gov)



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## [EXTERNAL] Re: USGS FOIA 2018-00114 - Response

1 message

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**Chris Saeger** <csaeger@westernvaluesproject.org>  
To: foia@usgs.gov

Thu, Oct 11, 2018 at 12:01 PM

Dear Ms. Cearley,

I appreciate the response, and the attempt to return responsive documents. However, I do not believe this satisfies my request., especially the second portion of the request: "I request access to and copies of all correspondence, including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the above list of USGS officials and the below list of Department of Interior officials at any point since December 9, 2017..."

That being said, to try to make this search easier, I'd be willing to significantly narrow the first portion of the request by inserting a keyword search (in bold) and removing Werkheiser from the list for targeted accounts (however, please keep him in the second portion of the request, for all correspondence between USGS and DOI officials). Hopefully, this will help reduce your search time:

"I also request access to and copies of all correspondence **that includes the word "Werkhesier,"** including but not limited to letters, texts, emails, and faxes, to or from the following United States Geological Survey officials from December 11, 2017 to December 22, 2017:

- Acting Director William Werkhesier
- Deputy Acting Director David Applegate
- Chief of Staff Judy Nowkowski
- Associate Director, Communications and Publishing, Betsy Hildebrandt
- Murray Hitzman
- Larry Meinert"

Thank you for your time.